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Peru

In an interview with EL COMERCIO, President Fujimori defends the actions of his government because his goal of democratizing the political system is being conducted "hand in hand with the people." Fujimori says he now regrets censoring the media during the initial stages of his coup, however, he deemed it necessary in order to achieve his primary goal of a "bloodless revolution." In response to international calls for a more rapid return to democracy, Fujimori says that his schedule is at a "minimum" and that elections cannot be organized in "a shorter period of time" than his date of 5 April 1993. Fujimori also reiterates his opposition to the formation of a constituent assembly because the people want "full participation" and do "not trust constituent assemblies." On economic matters, Fujimori stresses his support of Carlos Bolona's economic policy and will begin a new program of imprisoning tax evaders to increase revenues.

Political opposition forces issued a communique that states that the recent OAS mission failed "due exclusively to the intransigence and arrogance of Engineer Fujimori," Lima TV reports. These opposition parties also state that Fujimori's failure to negotiate will lead to "increasing international isolation."

Lima TV reports that on 6 May, joint forces of the police and Army were involved in violent clashes with prisoners charged with terrorism at the Miguel Castro Castro prison. A Government Ministry communique states that 12 policemen were injured in the violence so far, however, no figures on prisoner casualties have been reported.

Panama

The situation in Colon is becoming "increasingly tense," Panama City radio reports. Demonstrators and members of Modesco are clashing with the Public Force and the riot police. The Colon Municipal Council has issued a communique supporting the "just demands" of Modesco and the people of Colon and renouncing the meeting held with President Endara, the radio adds. The communique also states that Endara's 5 May declaration "in no way constitutes an agreement between the executive branch and the people of Colon." Meanwhile, the Modesco leadership has "disowned" the governor and mayor as provinicial authorities and has publicly rejected the meeting with Endara, Panama City TV reports. In a later report, Government and Justice Minister Chevalier announced that President Endara "intends to continue the dialogue with the popular sectors in Colon Province, especially with Modesco and Frasco."

Uruguay's Gros Reports 'Failure' of OAS Mission

PY0605140092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0631 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Montevideo, 6 May (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell has confirmed to the Montevideo media the failure of the OAS delegation, which he headed, that sought formulas of understanding and a democratic opening in Peru in the wake of President Alberto Fujimori's coup d'etat.

In a telephone conversation with television and newspaper journalists in the Uruguayan capital, Gros stated that he was preparing a report, along with the other members of the delegation, that will be submitted to the meeting of OAS foreign ministers scheduled for 17 May in Nassau, Bahamas.

The Uruguayan minister maintained that he had started to prepare his report and that the governments of the OAS member countries will determine the steps that will be taken regarding the coup d'etat in Peru.

Gros blamed the failure of the mission on the lack of an agreement between the Peruvian Government and the opposition and on President Fujimori's decision to continue with his announced democratization program and on his refusal to call a constituent assembly.

The foreign minister said: "I must confess that after intense talks with all the leaders of political parties and with President Fujimori, I could not find a point of agreement that would lead to a commitment, to an adequate formula based on the dialogue that had been promoted by the OAS to quickly overcome the current situation through democratic methods."

The minister confirmed that Fujimori insisted on going ahead with his program without listening to anyone else.

"Suggestions, possible paths to follow, and ideas were not accepted," he added.

"President Fujimori's government is keeping to its idea of holding a plebiscite with some slight changes and totally rejects the calling of a constituent assembly. Fujimori is becoming firmer in his post and there has been absolutely no changes in the program that he has proposed," Gros said.

Regarding the commanders of the Armed Forces, who listened to his proposal, Gros said: "They maintained their categorical support for President Fujimori's government."

Gros went to Peru as the head of the second mission after visiting Peru with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares on a fact-finding trip. Gros stated that the Armed Forces and the church had a clear idea and a precise diagnosis of the situation in Peru.

According to Gros' first evaluation, the Armed Forces supported the coup more because they thought that Peru was about to break down rather than through a question of discipline.

Gros said: "Any observer would first note the wide chasm that exists between the political leaderships and the feelings of the people. There is a lack of confidence among political parties, Congress, the Justice Department, the Constitutional Tribunal, and the government."

Before traveling for the second time in two weeks to Lima, Gros indicated that he personally noted the "fear of the people to directly confront things."

The Uruguayan foreign minister believes that the Peruvian Episcopal Conference has "a clear diagnosis, a perfectly clear, sensible, and rational idea of the situation, and a notion of how to act."

Mercosur, EC Ministers Meet to Strengthen Ties

PY0505132092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0028 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 May (TELAM)—The foreign ministers of the member countries of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] have indicated that controlling public expenditures, reducing the fiscal deficit and the foreign debt, implementing a policy of privatization, opening the economy to foreign investors, and opening the trade sector have permitted great progress in the economic strengthening of those countries.

These topics were discussed during two days in Guimaraes, Portugal by the foreign ministers of the EC countries and by the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Mercosur: Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina. The Argentine delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella.

The Argentine foreign minister harshly condemned the protectionism that is still practiced by Europe and the United States, and highlighted the fact that "the policy of agricultural subsidies practiced by the EC disturbs international trade and is harmful for the inhabitants and consumers of the European urban centers."

An Argentine delegation spokesman told TELAM that the EC and the Mercosur representatives agreed to "strengthen relations" in order to bolster trade among the countries of the region.

Di Tella participated in this meeting, that was summoned at the initiative of the EC which is interested in strengthening relations with the four member countries of Mercosur. He was accompanied by his Brazilian counterpart Celso Lafer, while Paraguay was represented by International Economic Relations Under Secretary Felix Antonio Lopez, and Uruguay was represented by its ambassador to the EC, Jose Maria Araneo.

"The European foreign ministers expressed their satisfaction over the results achieved in the Mercosur countries following the reform of their economies, and highlighted the process of integration in that region, which is open to the world." They promised to encourage investments in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

The fact that 70 percent of European investment in Latin America is channeled into the four Mercosur countries, and that 40 percent of the sales of these nations is channeled into Europe was also highlighted.

The EC reiterated its offer of technical help for regional integration, and expressed satisfaction over the success of the Mercosur countries in their economic reform, especially in the reduction of the fiscal deficit and the foreign debt, the freeing of trade, the acceleration of the privatization of the economies, and the opening of markets to foreign capital.

The Argentine delegation headed by Di Tella also included Alieto Guadagni, international economic relations under secretary; Felix Pena, American integration under secretary; Juan Bautista Yofre, Argentine ambassador to Lisbon; and the Argentine representative to the EC, Diego Guelar.

Cuba

GRANMA Editorial on U.S. Hate, Inequality

FL0605180792 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 May 92

[GRANMA editorial: "To That Kiln of Hate? Never!" published on 6 May]

[Text] History has taken no time at all to give a resounding slap to the reactionaries in the Yankee government for their premature triumphalism, as well as giving a crushing lesson to those who surrendered and betrayed socialism and who with no sense of shame idolize the United States and the industrialized capitalist societies. Less than a week ago, that two-bit prophet George Bush traveled to Miami in search of the Cuban-American vote. There, he issued an imperial edict to the effect that Cuba will surely explode during the nineties. When he issued that verdict, he was the one actually sitting on a powderkeg, which only a few hours later made its first explosions heard in Los Angeles and other U.S. cities.

With his rear scorched, the hero of the Persian Gulf War will now have to acknowledge the short-sightedness of not realizing that it was in his own country where social tensions were about to explode while Cuba, in the meantime, on 1 May was experiencing a day of revolutionary glory reflecting the commitment of a whole nation to continue determining its own destiny. In fact, many observers believe that it was the largest May Day celebration of the revolution. Some observers estimate that 1 million people participated in the parade in Havana, but we have to keep in mind that the ceremony was only part of the gigantic mobilization of several million workers, youths, students, and the people in general which took place throughout all the provinces and municipalities of the country. However, more than the impressive mass participation, what characterized the celebration was that extra something that Cubans give at vital times: a combination of emotion, awareness, passion, and the will to fight which sends a clear message to those inside and outside Cuba, to friends and foes.

While those who had been sentenced by Bush were displaying such splendid political and moral health, the Yankee paradise was the stage for a remarkable moment of frustration and anger. The least we can do is to point out that this was happening, simultaneously, in the country whose government is trying to dictate to us what type of society and democracy Cuba should have, maintains a criminal economic embargo against us, allows the counterrevolution and anti- Cuban terrorists to act freely, wages a high-intensity radio and propaganda war which harasses us in every possible way, and even threatens our nation with a possible military intervention. The U.S. Government has never renounced the possibility of a military intervention in order to impose on us, by blood and fire, a restoration of capitalism.

The true heart of a society built on hate and inequality was exposed in the last few days as U.S. television successively showed scenes of the brutal beating of a young black man, Rodney King, by four policemen—which took place months ago and during which the policemen hit him 56 times in less than a minute and a half—and scenes of the acquittal granted to the policemen by a jury, amid the applause of other policemen and hugs between the acquitted policemen and their ostentatious wives. It is an outcry against corrupted justice.

It is obvious that the jury arrived at its verdict in obedience to important power sectors in the United States. The fate of the four henchmen was the least important thing, but to condemn the police because of the simple coincidence that an amateur cameraman filmed images revealing the usual brutality of the repressive forces was intolerable. That would mean condemning police brutality and along with it the system that uses and sustains it. There has been talk about an explosion of violence, but violence in U.S. society is a permanent condition with profound historic roots. There is economic violence, there is social and racial violence, there is criminal violence, and there is police violence.

According to data from the February 1991 issue of the French magazine L'AUTRE JOURNAL, 36 million people were victims of crime and 19,000 were murdered during 1989 in the United States; 90 percent of the men and 74 percent of the women will some day be attacked, raped, or robbed; the prison population, currently at 1 million, is expected to double within the next 10 years; 46 percent of the jail population is black; 23 percent of the black population between the ages of 23 and 30 is in jail; there are currently 2,000 inmates on death row, including 27 minors; and 84 percent of Americans support the carrying of firearms, which can usually be purchased without any or hardly any restrictions.

It is true that racial violence is at the bottom of the events of the last few days. The Reverend Jesse Jackson called it the rage of the humiliated. What exploded in Los Angeles is that, but it is also something much deeper than that. French President Francois Mitterrand acutely observed that poverty, not racism, is what unleashed the wave of marches, protests, lootings, and fires.

The explosion is the result of the social contradictions accumulated by a society, which is in itself racist, but which also exploits and discriminates against the poor, whether they are white, black, or immigrants of any ethnic group. The explosion is the result of a system applying to workers and low-income citizens the same merciless neoconservative program it prescribes for our countries, and which lets fall on those social strata the main effects of unemployment, cuts in social spending, and economic recession.

Racial violence lies in the very origins of a nation which, in Marti's words, signed the Constitution on the backs of

the slaves. In the sixties, the civil rights movement took on such force and character that changes could not be avoided. The leader of that movement himself, Martin Luther King, was killed in an episode of racism and assassination that has been frequently repeated in American history. Many laws and racist practices were repealed or changed at that time, and the imperialist system was forced to seek within its own logic some palliative measures for the blemish. But racism, as a vision of the world and a philosophy that feeds on a reactionary, pseudo-fascist ideology, continues to exist. It cannot be abolished, because it g 's hand in hand with the society. On the contrary; the phenomenon is taking on new facets, such as the national minorities who take over businesses and wealth within the black communities.

The system itself promotes deceptive ideas and scales of values, such as the idea about Hispanics, who are supposedly more active and prosperous than the blacks, when one should really talk about Latin Americans and Caribbeans, many of whom are also at the same time blacks and mestizos, such as the Haitians and Jamaicans, and who suffer from savage discrimination. The United States, the weelthiest capitalist country, has its internal third world, and it applies against it the same cruelty and savagery as it would if it were a country located far from its borders.

In this case, our attention is particularly drawn by the dedication to repression shown by the Bush Government against U.S. citizens themselves. He did not wait until the possibilities of the National Guard and police had been exhausted before calling regular Army troops into action under the command of Colin Powell, the chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It included units with experience in Panama and the Gulf War. Like all those who do not have the people's support, Bush's choice was to call the troops out onto the streets. Los Angeles was thus invaded by the 7th Infantry Division in full combat gear, which could be an unprecedented action in peacetime.

As the disturbances tapered off, the provisional figure of 58 killed and more than 2,300 injured, 220 of them in critical condition, is much higher than that of all U.S. casualties in the Desert Storm operation, and reveals the ferocity of the repression. It is strange to verify the expeditious and brutal procedures—following no law other than that of force and war—which the Washington government applied to its citizens who it considers agents of disorder. That same government, its officials, and the ideologues of the U.S. system, as is well known, are the same ones who hypocritically try to put Cuba on the dock for being intolerant and putting on trial, with all guarantees and without harming their physical and moral integrity, the counterrevolutionary elements that internally play along with the United States' plans and violate our laws; or for giving exemplary sentences to terrorists trained in Florida under the very nose of the FBI to plant bombs, kill people, and set fires in Cuba.

According to U.S. sources, hundreds of prisoners arrested in recent days in the United States were doing nothing more than protesting the acquittal of the four henchmen, and had not violated any law or committed any offense. Thus, they are political prisoners, pure and simple. This is the government that is trying to accuse Cuba of human rights violations? How can such barbarism be described? What is more, what moral weight and what authority can the leaders of a system like that have to try to set themselves up as a universal model and decide how other peoples in the world should organize and govern themselves? What freedom, what justice, what equality, and what true human rights can the United States boast of, when such things occur there?

It would certainly be interesting to know what those in the former Soviet Union who are now devoting themselves to a frenzied imitation of the United States think about this aspect of the American model. Or especially the thoughts of those in Russia who believe that it is enough to establish primitive capitalism and hand the country over to the new bourgeoisie and Mafia so that the miracle of abundance can occur, or those who stabbed socialism in the back to then reveal their true vocation as ridiculous sellouts for a handful of dollars. Thus, 1 May this year became a day of protest against hunger, corruption, and injustice. Do they perhaps think that it would be just as easy to order repression by the (Tanmaskaya) or (Kanteviduskaya) Divisions if the desperate people take to the streets one day?

All those who, having great ethnic and national conflicts within their countries, insist on gullible and opportunistic adoration of the Yankee model should look in the mirror of Los Angeles. They will never be able to solve those problems with that kind of system. This 1 May in Cuba and in the United States also holds a lesson for the weaklings here and those who without going so far as to commit treason are nevertheless suffering from a lack of faith, discouragement, or confusion. For the counterrevolutionaries who hope that prophet Bush will bring about the restoration of the past in Cuba, this 1 May was an unequivocal demonstration that in Cuba there is not and will not be any possibility for them to raise their heads, and that those who try to do so will have to meet head on with our combative people.

As for the hypercritical or those who have collapsed, if any of them remain who honestly believe that there is any other path for our nation than resistance and defense of our sovereignty, revolution, and socialism at any cost; if any dreamer still exists who thinks that difficulties can be avoided by following the path of concessions and surrenders, or through strange attempts to create a kind of Frankenstein that will unite the advantages of socialism and the supposed efficiency of developed capitalism, that kind of capitalism that some backyard mediocrities think is perfect and without contradictions; these events would be enough to make them rethink and return to reality.

The events in the United States tell us once again what could await Cuba if it again fell into Yankee hands. That is the model that would await us. That would be our freedom, justice, and dignity. As a visionary echo, Jose Marti's sentences resound today, written almost a century ago when he rose up vehemently and clearsightedly against the materialistic tendencies of the supporters of annexation and those who in his time superficially idealized the United States, deceived by mistaking the realities of a nation for what their Sunday sermons said about it. The Apostle asked then: To this agitated jungle of rich against poor, Christians against Jews, whites against blacks, farmers against businessmen, Westerners and Southerners against Easterners, voracious and destitute men against all those who deny their hunger and thirst, to that kiln of hates, those sharp teeth, the crater already smoking, will we now bring, virginal and full of fruit, the land of our heart? One hundred years later, and with the revolution finally victorious, completely free masters of our future and absolutely sovereign, we must again answer: To that kiln of hate, never!

Carlos Lage Speaks on Economic Situation

FL0705000992 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0145 GMT 6 May 92

["Excerpt" of a news conference with Politburo member Carlos Lage Davila by foreign and Cuban correspondents in Havana on 4 May—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] I am a representative of the ITAR-TASS news agency. I have two questions. The first one concerns what used to be the Soviet Union. How would you describe the economic relations between Cuba and the former Soviet Union? The second question is: For a few months we have been hearing the term "double embargo." According to your understanding, which one of the two embargoes has the worst consequences, the first or the second?

[Lage] As to our relations with the USSR, there are none because there is no USSR. As to the republics that comprise the former USSR, I could say each one of them is in a unique situation. We could say that, in general, a desire to maintain trade relations and continue developing trade, including cooperation, has been expressed. Of course, this would have to be done under new conditions.

Naturally, the preferential prices for our export products have not continued in our relations with any of these republics. The credits for trade and development that the USSR offered Cuba have not continued either. Those conditions of preferential prices and credits for trade and development that we received from the USSR do not exist today in our relations with any of these republics.

Efforts are being made on both sides to continue developing trade, which is of mutual interest, considering that there is a traditional market for raw materials and export products in both directions. In that sense, this process is going through many difficulties that derive primarily from the difficulties that the republics of the former USSR are going through today.

At this time, an exchange has been established, which is rather limited, of sugar for oil. There is practically no other business exchange, except for very occasionally with some factories and some regions. But the business exchange with the USSR has practically been limited to the exchange of sugar for oil in very much lower quantities than those [words indistinct].

Not only did we lose the conditions for exchange and economic relations with the republics of the former USSR, but we also [passage indistinct] 50 percent of what we used to receive every year. Included in this figure are repercussions due to the loss of preferential prices, certain credits, and markets for certain of our products, which were basically aimed at markets in countries that used to be socialist.

These repercussions have not ended. We foresee that the country's loss of import capability for 1992 will be 58 percent. It will be even greater, because in the first semester of 1991 an agreement was reached with the USSR. The agreement was discussed in December 1990. The agreement guaranteed sugar prices that were not very high, but they were higher than the sugar prices on the world market. Towards the end of 1991 and during this whole year, all our exports have taken place at world market prices. Furthermore, we have not received credits from the USSR nor from any other country. Therefore, this year we will have to confront the situation of a 58-percent reduction in our country's import capability. The agreement I was referring to was in 1989, not 1990.

Under these circumstances, we should also talk about our fuel situation in particular. In the past, our country received 13 million tons of fuel annually. This year, we will have to make ends meet with less than 6 million tons of imported fuel due to these circumstances. In other words, our country will face,—it has been facing—a very difficult situation, and in 1992 it will confront possibly the most difficult year of these special circumstances.

Further on News Conference

FL0705003092 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0214 GMT 6 May 92

["Excerpt" of a news conference with Politburo member Carlos Lage Davila by foreign and Cuban reporters in Havana on 4 May—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to ask you something simple that I am sure is no secret. It concerns the exchange rate of your national currency and the dollar [words indistinct] national currency. In most countries there is a difference between the official bank rate and the other rates [words indistinct] but I would like to know if it is not alarming that this difference that exists—not the difference, but the gap—that officially

you exchange one Cuban peso for $1.35, when in reality one dollar is worth more than 30 pesos of your national currency [words indistinct] citizens and other foreigners who live here. I have one more question. Is the use of dollars as a parallel currency completely constitutional?

[Lage] Parallel? [words indistinct] Parallel. That question is very easy. Of course it is constitutional. We do not have a constitutional precept that forbids it. Furthermore, besides there not being a constitutional precept, I believe there is no legal, moral, or any other type of precept that prevents us from using dollars in certain transactions within the country. In fact, there are other countries that use the dollar or use an exchange currency. It is similar to that. In other words, this is not an exclusively Cuban experience.

What you are referring to certainly is a problem and it is due to [words indistinct] that does not exist only in Cuba. I [passage indistinct] in the world that it has here, as in other places around the world, its own characteristics. In fact, foreigners better understand that part of the economy because that part of the economy takes place in connection with them. The vast majority of the people who live among Cubans do not perceive this underground economy or the different exchange rate for the dollar, because they do not have access to that market and they do not participate in that underground economy. Very small sectors participate in this underground economy, but they participate in connection with foreigners. In fact, this does exist.

On this topic, we could say that there is one factor that has a lot of influence. This is that there is an excess of money in circulation. We recognize this difficulty, and we recognize that in addition, this excess of money in circulation—I am referring to pesos— is not beneficial to the improvement of the economy. It is negative for the economy, and it should be rectified. It should be rectified. Nevertheless, we have not made solving this obvious problem an absolute priority right now under these circumstances.

What we could be doing is collecting the excess money in circulation and balancing our internal finances, which would be a process that would go against what you talked about, and we will do it. But, we prefer to postpone this and guarantee food, medicines, and jobs for our people because we could increase the prices and leave millions of people without access to certain products. We could also do away with all the jobs that we do not need. We could send all those who work in factories that do not have raw materials home and not pay them their wages. Nevertheless, we prefer to give them new jobs, relocate them in the positions available. The vast majority of the people agree with this, and those who do not accept this are sent home and given 60 percent of their wages, which is sufficient for the products that are guaranteed by the state.

We prefer that the populace, in these times of difficulties, have access to what the country has, rather than imposing financial regulations which would leave millions of people without access to consumer products. We will confront that problem as we succeed in increasing production. Today, we could increase prices and we could collect that currency that is in circulation, and in another six months it could be back circulating on the streets again, because we do not have the support of production, which would guarantee the stability of those measures.

This is an example of an antishock policy. We prefer to maintain these products and prices so they are accessible to all the people, despite the risk this involves. As we have more products available, and as production increases, we will have to adjust prices. We will always guarantee that these products are available to everyone and that all the people are able to purchase the basic necessities of life.

Commentator Describes Work of Peoples Councils

PA0605185492 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 May 92

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] A new link in the chain of Cuba's popular democracy is seen every day in the successful running in some zones of the Peoples Councils [Consejos Populares], which perform a task that is being systematically controlled by the nation's top leaders who hope to expand the process throughout Cuba. The Peoples Councils represent a new expression of that Cuban system of government called the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] and have been put to work in municipalities and districts as a way to fill a vacuum between the two structures.

The revolutionary concept of government joins the chain previously established with the ANPP and begins from the bottom up in the districts, municipalities, provinces, and in the ANPP. The new structure, which is barely in the third year of its experimental phase, is made up in each region of district delegates and representatives from enterprises and social organizations. The Peoples Council president, who performs his job full time, is authorized to make any decision regarding his community, including the dismissal of incompetent officials and managers, thus shattering bureaucratic obstacles.

The Peoples Councils support the local governments in handling more pressing problems that on occasion pile up when the ANPP delegates have more work than they can handle. That new way of governing plays a decisive role in the current period, as the country's situation calls for more efficient distribution of scarce foreign resources. In addition, the Peoples Councils require great skill in coordinating local human and material resources to meet daily demands. In their short lives, the undisputable achievement of the Councils consists of mobilizing neighbors to cope with the difficulties around them. Because of that, after having first

adopted a wait and see attitude, communities are now expressing their growing confidence and support for the Peoples Councils.

Cuban Movement Presidents Interviewed on Embargo

FL0605192092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Just a few minutes ago, a statement demanding the right of the Cuban people to their sovereignty and national independence was issued at the headquarters of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples. This is in response to the U.S. Government's bill to isolate Cuba and intensify the economic and trade embargo against our country.

Reporter Guillermo Bernal talked with Orlando Fundora, the president of the Cuban Movement for Peace, and Doctor Miguel A. D'Estefano Pissani, the president of the Lawyers Committee of the Cuban Movement for Peace and the Cuban United Nations Association.

[Begin recording] [Bernal] I would like to know if there have been other peace and sovereignty movements on the continent which have expressed a positive attitude toward Cuba? What is happening in the Latin American sphere?

[Fundora] I can tell you that 1991—and so far, 1992—has truly been a year of difficulties for everyone, but it has also been a year of solidarity with Cuba. We have received messages and expressions of solidarity with Cuba, and of moral and material help and support for our movement from almost all the movements that we have ties with in Latin America. I am sure that some of their messages have not arrived due to problems with communications, and sometimes even due to financial difficulties. The movements for peace and solidarity and to defend the sovereignty of the peoples of our continent are very poor.

[Bernal] Last April in public statements, U.S. President George Bush stated his support for a bill presented to Congress entitled the Cuban Democracy Act of 1991. What is this bill trying to do? Does it violate the rights of U.S. citizens?

[D'Estefano] This law violates the U.S. Constitution and of course U.S. laws. In terms of U.S. citizens, their right to leave the country to visit another is prohibited by U.S. domestic legislation regarding Cuba. Due to this, many U.S. citizens have (?determined) that it is unconstitutional to prohibit the political right to travel—they call it a civil right—of U.S. citizens to visit Cuba, for example. [end recording]

Ukraine Youth Fund Donates Medical Supplies

FL0705011092 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Humanitarian aid for the Chernobyl children has arrived in our country from the Ukrainian Republic of the CIS. The donation was made by the Youth Fund for Aid to the Chernobyl Children of the Ukrainian Republic. It consists of 20 tons of medical supplies intended for children's hospitals and the Jose Marti Pioneers City in Tarara where these children are receiving medical care and specialized treatment.

The cargo was brought by the ship Frank Pais, which left Ilichov Port, Odessa, on 11 April. Lilian Poltiai, the vice president of the Ukrainian Youth Fund for Aid to the Chernobyl Children, is in Cuba to officially deliver this donation to the Ministry of Public Health.

[Begin Poltiai recording] We intend to send more shipments of donations in the future for Cuban children. [end recording]

During her stay in our country, this official will visit the centers where more than 10,000 children from the Republics of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, who were affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe, have been given treatment.

Foreign Ministry on Relations With Grenada

PA0705043692 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] A spokesman from the Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry told this station that the ministry has taken note of a declaration by the Grenadian Government that considers relations with the Cuban Government to be normal. The spokesman said the announcement by the Grenadian Government is very positive. He said Cuba is willing to continue strengthening and broadening ties of assistance with English-speaking Caribbean countries and their institutions, such as CARICOM [Caribbean Common Market].

According to the spokesman, the Cuban Government expects to carry out effective regional relations in the immediate future. Cuba and Grenada had their relations interrupted in 1983 when the United States invaded the small Caribbean country.

Chilean Consul to Havana Presents Credentials

PY0605024092 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 25 Apr 92 p 15

[Text] Benjamin Concha Gazmuri, the Chilean general consul to Havana, Cuba, has presented his credentials to Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli. According to cable reports, the ceremony was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and Cuban President Fidel Castro agreed to resume consular and commercial relations between the two countries during the Ibero-American summit held in Mexico in July 1991.

* Text of CETSS Work Interruption Law

92CA0140A Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish
6 Apr 92 p 9

[Text of 1992 Resolution No. 3 of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security; first three paragraphs are TRABAJADORES introduction]

[Text] The 16th Workers Congress emphasized the need to modify the labor and salary treatment for workers affected by temporary work stoppages and recommended establishing a policy of expanding transfer possibilities, not only within the agency where the work interruption took place, but to others as well.

The regulations contained in Decree No. 56 of 1979 are not applicable to our present conditions. Therefore, its provisions need to be reformulated and the treatment of work interruptions regulated in a lower-level legal standard, so they may be applied more flexibly.

Decree No. 168 of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers rescinds Decree No. 56 and Joint Resolution No. 7/80 of the State Committees on Finance and Labor and Social Security, as well as all equal or lower-level legal provisions or regulations that may conflict with its provisions.

Resolution No. 3/92 - CETSS: Labor and Salary Treatment For Work Interruptions

Whereas: The Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers issued Decree No. 168 on 31 January 1992 and also authorized the CETSS [State Committee for Labor and Social Security] to regulate the actions of agencies and workers in the event of work interruptions.

Whereas: Among other points, Resolution No. 4 of 4 March 1991 of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security regulated the labor and salary treatment applicable to persons declared excess workers as a consequence of reductions in supplies of fuels or other technical and material supplies; it is, therefore, necessary to prescribe the procedure applicable when work interuptions occur which do not generate excess workers.

Therefore: By virtue of the powers conferred upon me, and based on a favorable ruling of the Cuban Workers Federation,

I hereby resolve:

1. The purpose of this Resolution is to regulate the labor and salary treatment to be used in the event of work interruptions. They affect workers in jobs covered by labor contracts for an indefinite time, a definite period of time, a trial period, or by appointment or election, independently of the form of payment, whether based on the job completed or piece executed or based on time.

2. For the purposes of the application of the provisions contained in this Resolution, the following concepts are hereby defined:

a) Work interruption: A stoppage of the labor process that causes the worker to be idle during his workday or for a period equal to or exceeding that workday.

b) Fixed salary: The salary due to the worker for a maximum of eight hours a day, 44 hours a week, or 190.6 hours a month, based on stable salary components; therefore, payments made for exceeding work standards, extra work, and bonuses are excluded.

When one of the components of the worker's fixed salary is contingent upon his compliance with indicators or conditions, the average amount of this component actually due to the worker during the last six months worked will be included in the fixed salary.

3. A work interruption shall be considered an interruption that occurs for one of the following causes:

a) Equipment breakdowns;

b) Lack of spare parts, materials, raw materials, or semifinished goods;

c) The effects of rain, tropical storms or hurricanes, or other adverse natural factors.

ch) The occurrence of acts such as fires, demolitions or collapses, pollution, and other events.

d) An order to temporarily stop equipment, machinery, or production lines, or ordering the total or partial shutdown of work centers, ordered by the authorities empowered to do so by current labor safety and health legislation.

4. In the event of a work interruption, the agency is required to transfer the worker to other productive tasks or services, either in his own agency or in another, and also to determine the cause of this interruption, in order to eliminate it if possible, and to avoid its recurrence.

In addition, the agency is required to determine whether this interruption may be attributable to any of the workers; if so, the appropriate penalty shall be applied.

In the event of an interruption when it is not possible to arrange a temporary transfer, the agency, acting by mutual agreement with the appropriate union organization, shall determine whether or not the workers will remain in the center.

5. The temporarily transferred worker, as well as the worker who must remain at his work post awaiting restoration of the production process or service, is entitled to receive 100 percent of his fixed daily salary, with the exception of a worker who is held to be responsible for the work interruption, who shall have no right to any guaranteed salary.

6. In exceptional cases when it is not possible to transfer the worker, this worker shall receive a guaranteed minimum salary equivalent to 100 percent of his fixed daily salary for the first 30 working days, computed either consecutively or nonconsecutively within the calendar

year involved. After the first 30 workdays have elapsed, the guaranteed salary to be paid will be equivalent to 60 percent of the fixed daily salary.

A worker who, in the opinion of the agency and union organization, unjustifiably refuses to accept a temporary transfer for which he is physically and mentally qualified, shall not be entitled to a guaranteed salary.

7. If the agency's analysis determines that due to the magnitude of the interruption it will exceed 30 consecutive working days, the treatment prescribed for temporarily excess workers stated in Chapters II and III of Resolution No. 4 of 15 March 1991 of this State Committee shall be applicable starting on the first day of the work interruption.

8. Workers temporarily transferred either inside or outside their agency will receive their salaries through their assigned agency, based on the provisions of Section Five of this Resolution, and their leave and salary will continue to accrue.

A worker who cannot be transferred, as well as a worker who does not agree to the proposed transfer, will not accumulate leave time or its monetary equivalent during this period.

9. This Resolution shall not be applicable to workers engaged in manual and mechanized agricultural and forestry work.

Nor shall it be applicable to positions for which there is a salary compensation or work interruptions guarantee implicit in payment systems based on the job or piece completed, which are centrally approved by this State Committee.

10. Central State Adminstration and Provincial People's Government Organizations that conduct activities not covered by these provisions and not in compliance with the labor and salary treatment established in the present Resolution, shall have 180 calendar days after this publication in the GACETA OFICIAL DE LA REPUBLICA to submit their plan to the Sector Directorate of this State Committee.

11. The sector director is authorized to approve plans filed for labor interruptions that do not conform in specific aspects with the provisions of this Resolution.

12. The vice chairman of this State Committee in charge of the Labor and Incentives Directorate is authorized to issue regulations as needed to improve the understanding and execution of the provisions of this Resolution.

13. Resolution No. 1049 of 14 December 1981 of this State Committee for Labor and Social Security is hereby rescinded.

14. Starting 180 days after the publication of this Resolution in the GACETA OFICIAL DE LA REPUBLICA, the resolutions and instructions issued by the State Committee for Labor and Social Security related to rescinded Decree No. 56 of 25 December 1979 of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers and any other provisions that may conflict or impede compliance with the provisions of this Resolution shall be declared null and void and of no further effect.

15. Publication is hereby ordered in the GACETA OFICIAL DE LA REPUBLICA for general information, to take effect beginning on its date of publication.

Issued in the City of Havana on 31 January 1992.

Francisco Linares Calvo, minister president, State Committee for Labor and Social Security.

Haiti

Reportage on Villa d'Accueil Tripartite Talks

Senator Joseph Interviewed

FL0605172292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 6 May 92

[Excerpt] In contrast to other days, no communique was issued yesterday at the end of the fourth day of the Villa d'Accueil negotiations. According to Senator Serge Joseph, the talks continued very late into the night on the parliament's proposals in favor of a consensus government in the country. Serge Joseph further says if this proposal passes, the three parties will have to choose a prime minister who will form a cabinet including representatives of all trends in the country. When we asked him about the executive's intention to hold new presidential elections in the country, he said that one cannot speak of elections now because the government does not have enough means to hold elections.

According to Sen. Joseph, the role of this consensus government would be to work to consolidate democracy and to allow economic life to resume in Haiti. He points out that all three parties seem to have agreed to set their personal interests aside so that the country can overcome its current situation.

As we just told you, the talks that began after 1600 yesterday afternoon concluded very late last night following a proposal by several members who asked for the suspension of the session so they could rest. The debates are expected to resume again today at noon at Villa d'Accueil. Let us listen to an interview with Sen. Serge Joseph.

[Begin recording] [Joseph] A consensus government would also call for the protection of the general public interests as they relate to the consolidation of democracy in Haiti. You asked me whether it would also propose changing the prime minister. Well, it would have two goals. One goal is aimed at identifying a prime minister and the other goal is aimed at forming a ministerial cabinet including representatives of all political leanings.

[Unidentified reporter] Sen. Joseph, who made this proposal? Is it....[changes thought] What party in particular made it?

[Joseph] Well, the parliament made a proposal. Indeed, the executive made one as well. But finally, they got together and formed a work group to analyze a solution. What resulted was this proposal for the formation of a consensus government that I just mentioned. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Compromise Said Near

FL0605193692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] The participants at the tripartite summit allegedly are close to a compromise solution. Senator Dejean Belizaire told journalists: We are at a difficult phase in the talks. I therefore prefer not to comment at this time to avoid hindering progress in the negotiations.

The fifth round of tripartite talks took place in an atmosphere of heavy security yesterday. Two proposals, that of the executive, and the proposal by parliament were at the center of the debates. The government supports holding elections and forming a consensus cabinet. The parliamentarians, on the other hand, are proposing the ratification of a document derived from the Washington agreement. The Army offered no proposals, adhering to that institution's nonpolitical role.

The session began at around 1900 GMT yesterday afternoon, and lasted until very late in the evening. According to certain participants, the various parties are close to a compromise solution. The sessions are scheduled to resume at midday today.

'Difficulties' Encountered

PA0705021992 Paris AFP in Spanish 0125 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 6 May (AFP)—The tripartite talks that are being held between the "provisional" government, the parliament, and the Army to try to find a solution to the serious Haitian crisis, encountered difficulties on 6 May, parliamentary sources in Port-au-Prince have announced.

Thirteen members of the delegation that represents the parliament, belonging to the leftist and popular National Front for Change and Democracy (FNCD), did not attend the talks.

"Provisional" President Joseph Nerette, Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat, Senate President Dejean Belizaire, House of Deputies President Alexandre Medard, and Army Commander General Raoul Cedras participated. They committed themselves to announce to the country the results of the meetings.

FNCD Requests Postponement

FL0705115892 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 7 May 92

[Excerpt] The session that many people considered the last round in the Villa d'Accueil talks did not take place yesterday. News coming from the various parties involved in the negotiations advises that the executive, the Army, and a portion of the parliamentary committee were obliged to postpone the session until tomorrow, Friday [8 May] at the request of three National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] parliamentarians who did not go to the Villa d'Accueil for the continuation of the negotiations.

According to the same sources, it was as late as yesterday around 2000 GMT that these three parliamentarians—including Deputy Rindal Pierre-Canel, Senator Eudrice Raymond, and Senator Turneb Delpe—sent a letter to the other parties, who had been waiting for them since noon, in which they asked that the session be postponed to another day so they could formulate a stand in the latest talks.

FNCD Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis said that it is important that all the parliamentarians of the Front have the same stand in the debates. Therefore, they asked for some time so that they could discuss it between themselves. Sen. Jean-Louis also pointed out that the idea of a consensus government, that is being talked about, does not correspond to the role that the parliamentary committee should play in the Villa d'Accueil negotiations. [passage omitted]

Reaction Said 'Quite Severe'

FL0705114792 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Representatives of the Haitian Parliament, military, and the government have decided to postpone talks until tomorrow [8 May] after some lawmakers failed to show up for yesterday's session. Reactions to the absence have been quite severe. Various deputies involved in the talks expressed outrage and insult. To this point, all sides involved in the talks have not revealed any details, but yesterday one participant told journalists that the discussions are centered on forming a new government in Haiti that would hold new elections.

Lavalas Government Awaits U.S. Funding Increase

FL0605172192 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French 5-6 May 92 No 628 pp 1,4

[Article: "State Department Refuses $600,000 Increase to Aristide"]

[Text] Jean Casimir, the representative in Washington of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has not obtained the $600,000 increase asked of the State Department in order to maintain the lavalas government which has converted itself into a propaganda agency outside of Haiti.

Casimir receives every month, on behalf of Father Aristide $900,000. This sum given by the Americans "serves to pay the diplomats attached to President Aristide," according to Guy Alexandre who is living in the Dominican Republic. Guy Alexandre, appointed ambassador by the overthrown government, has justified asking for an increase to the budget because of the need to find a secure residence for the ousted president.

However, at the State Department, this costly assistance policy is increasingly raising objections. Several U.S. officials think that this money is being used to finance a political campaign against the Republican administration during election time.

St. Lucia

Hunte Named Parliamentary Opposition Leader

FL0605215292 Bridgetown CANA in English 2003 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, May 6, CANA—Leader of the St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) Julian Hunte was on Wednesday appointed opposition leader in the new Parliament here.

A statement from the governor-general's house said that Hunte was appointed to the post in accordance with Section 67 of the island's Constitution. This provides for the appoir.tment of an opposition leader from among "the members of the house who appears...Most likely to command the support of the majority from members of the House who do not support the government."

Hunte, a leading businessman, regained the North Gros Islet seat in the April 27 general elections, but his SLP lost by an 11-6 margin to the United Workers Party. In the previous election, the SLP had won eight seats.

There has been no indication here as to how soon the new Parliament will be convened.

El Salvador

Cristiani Says FMLN Must Keep Agreements

PA0605160392 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 5 May 92 p 3

[Text] After inaugurating the 29th meeting of the governors of Ibero-American central banks, President Alfredo Cristiani responded to recent remarks by Jorge Shafik Handal, communist leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, who said the government's failure to comply with the peace agreements was driving the country to the conditions that led to the war in 1979.

"I do not agree with that view at all," Cristiani said, "because conditions in the country have changed a great deal compared to what they were in the years before the conflict. If the FMLN resumes armed aggression, we are ready to continue to defend the Salvadoran people."

Cristiani affirmed noncompliance with the agreements is because of "several reasons that cannot be blamed on the two sides alone."

He cited the delay in receiving the foreign aid necessary to promote the National Reconstruction Program, budget problems in the National Civilian Police, and the National Commission for Peace's delay in naming the three candidates for the post of chief of the Security Academy as obstacles to compliance.

Cristiani said the threat of violence is no way to resolve the problems that have arisen in the peace agreements, because sufficient channels exist to resolve the differences that come up.

Regarding the dissolution of the National Guard and the Treasury Police, Cristiani said that, based on the agreements, the two institutions ceased to exist as corps in charge of security and public order.

"Too much importance is attached to a symbol; those security corps no longer exist and have become completely different units," he said, explaining why the National Guard became the Border Police and the Treasury Police became the Military Police.

The president vehemently stated the FMLN is obliged to comply with the agreements and cannot eschew its responsibility by arguing the government is not doing its part.

"The United Nations clearly stated one side cannot make its fulfillment contingent on compliance by the other side. Each has to do its part." he said.

Cristiani declined to say how the government will respond if the FMLN fails to demobilize completely or destroy its weapons before 31 October.

Shafik Handal Comments

PA0705040992 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 4 May 92 p 7

[Text] Commander Jorge Shafik Handal has accused President Alfredo Cristiani of conspiring with those sectors that endanger the process that ended a decade of war.

On 4 May, Shafik Handal—a member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command and secretary general of the Communist Party of El Salvador, PCS—regretted the fact that Cristiani is playing along with the right-wing sectors that support social injustices and violations of the agreements.

Shafik Handal said on 4 May that Cristiani is losing the international recognition he won following the signing of the peace agreements because he is hindering the peace process by violating the agreements and demanding that only the FMLN demobilize its forces.

Shafik Handal stressed that until the existence of a third force, which will be in charge of ensuring that the agreements are respected, has been proven, "we will have to scratch our own backs" to make sure peace becomes a reality.

Handal also talked about the demobilization of combatants and the aid that is supposedly being offered by the government. He claimed that such aid still does not exist and that it is not true the government is waiting for a report that the FMLN must present.

The government has made a commitment to provide scholarships, jobs, and social stability. However, the government has not solved these problems yet, and that has contributed to the delay in the peace agreements.

Regarding the fact that the National Association of Private Employees [ANEP] has not become part of the National Concerted Efforts Forum, Shafik Handal noted that the ANEP is supporting the confrontations and trying to block the peace process that, in any case, is irreversible.

PDC Calls Meeting on Fulfillment of Agreements

PA0605161192 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] on 5 May called for an urgent meeting among the government, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz], and the UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL] to prevent the nonfulfillment of some peace agreements and to move the country's peace process forward.

According to the PDC leadership, the recent mutual recriminations by the government and the FMLN will encourage a climate of general unease and fear among the Salvadoran people. As a result, it called for a meeting

among the main parties to the peace process to try to resolve the problem of nonfulfillment of the implementation schedule.

[Begin PDC leader Fidel Chavez Mena recording] We believe it is important that the FMLN and the government meet with ONUSAL to find specific formulas to overcome the problem of nonfulfillment of the agreements. It is also necessary that the highest levels of Copaz meet to reach definite agreements, no matter how long it takes. Our real concern—and we are expressing a very clear concern of the Salvadoran people—is that both sides cannot be permitted to continue to recriminate each other. [end recording]

Chavez Mena said the impasse at Copaz must also be resolved because a return to violence, which is being hinted at by both sides, cannot be permitted. PDC leader Gerardo Le Chevalier said the accumulated nonfulfillment of some agreements might lead to the failure of the process and subsequently to a general crisis.

[Begin Le Chevalier recording] If you see the list of all the commitments that were to be fulfilled by 1 May, you will realize that none have been fulfilled. This is truly serious because we are endangering the main result of so many years of negotiation: the end of the war. If we do not make an effort to fulfill the agreements, a crisis may break out. Let us hope this will not be the case. Let us hope a military solution will never be sought. [end recording]

The PDC proposed a series of bilateral meetings between the government and the FMLN to resolve the problem of nonfulfillment of the agreements.

* Villalobos Comments on Factions Against Accords

92CA0145A San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 9 Apr 92 p 2

[Commentary by Joaquin Villalobos]

[Text] Two months after the start of the implementation of the accords, the honeymoon is definitely over, and reality is upon us.

In general, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] was quite effective in the beginning; its presence in terms of its image and popular support exceeded all expectations. Later some disorder seemed to creep into its operations, which was understandable, as the situation was not stable. The situation is now somewhat more delicate. While some changes have been made, the FMLN is facing attempts to weaken it through noncompliance with the accords on the part of the GOES [Government of El Salvador] and a strong propaganda campaign against it. The FMLN is portrayed as having excessive institutional involvement and appears to lack a policy toward its old and new military and political base that would enable it to exert any pressure.

For their part, the government and the Armed Forces at first seemed diminished and impacted by the force of the FMLN's presence, but they have managed to use their main strength, psychological warfare, to generate insecurity and a feeling among the people that the agreements are not going to last. Such behavior has been a constant of this government at different times during the negotiations. Now, though, a dangerous group, which wants to break all the agreements reached during the negotiations, is gaining strength. This group, composed of businessmen, FAES [Armed Forces of El Salvador] members, and people from the government, is taking advantage of loopholes and weaknesses in the agreements on territorial service, the principal component of militarism. The negotiation agreement stipulates that lands will be turned over to the peasants and former combatants, but this faction, in cooperation with the GOES, is promoting a campaign to not turn the lands over, but to return them to their owners.

The attack on the accords is encouraged by the FMLN's supposed weakness due to internal disputes about the accords and also because the situation involves positions that will affect the 1994 elections. And some disturbing positions have been taken by the U.S. government concerning the accords; as always, the United States is trying to pin all the blame on the FMLN, siding unilaterally with the government. The risks of institutionalist partiality in terms of verification create a fertile field for using pressure as a way of settling differences, and this does not help to achieve balanced compliance. All of this dangerously encourages the factions that are against the accords, who try to destroy everything that has been achieved. If that is allowed to happen, we will have an economically and socially destabilized country with an uncontrollable spiral of confrontation and a dirty war that will plunge us once again into serious warfare.

It is important to note that the communist threat can no longer be an issue, for there is no such threat, and the FMLN's credentials, which are democratic and favor modernization, are sufficiently clear. This promotion of confrontation can only be explained now by a lack of desire for true democracy. The FMLN is pragmatic, but it is not cowardly or naive, and it is not going to lose what it has won at the last minute by caving in or going along. Some parts of the government are using a strategy to wear down the FMLN leadership, trying one more plan, in addition to the hundreds that have been tried during 11 years, to erode the FMLN's military strength and its social base.

Attempts to take away lands won by FMLN combatants are synonymous with war. Trying to maintain the GN [National Guard] and PH [Treasury Police] and to reorganize the territorial service; trying to pursue a policy of assassinations and psychological terror with criminal acts perpetrated by members or former members of the security forces, civil defense forces, and the Armed Forces, placing the blame on the FMLN, also means a return to war and a delay in organizing the PNC [National Civilian Police]. Trying to keep the judicial

police separate from this new police force in order to prevent the military and the death squads from being punished; trying to bar former [insurgent] combatants from entering this new police force; wanting to set up posts of the current police force in strife-torn areas; moving ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] officials en masse to organize municipal police organizations; and carrying out plans for confrontation are equally dangerous.

Manipulating public opinion by using their media advantage to attack the FMLN for alleged violations of the accords, thinking this will weaken it, means they have not learned their lesson (President Cristiani himself accuses the FMLN of organizing "las maras" [criminal gangs]); in 12 years they have poured millions into useless propaganda that portrayed us as criminals. But on 1 February the people, even those opposed to us, welcomed us as heroes, for we have dignity and we defend what is right for this country.

If there is one thing this people and this nation would not forgive us, it would be our failure to stand up for our national honor.

Attempting to break down our forces by delaying providing FMLN camps with food, water, and supplies to provoke their collapse means they do not know their enemy after 11 years of fighting them and, in good Spanish, this is called being incompetent. The only thing they are provoking is a reaction and the exertion of pressure by a structure that is experienced in its ability to adapt to difficult situations.

Those who think the leadership of the FMLN can be frightened or assimilated are equally naive. They will neither abandon the space [they have won], nor cease doing what needs to be done or saying what needs to be said for fear of something they have never feared. Absolutely nothing in the negotiation was free. Perhaps we were naive to think that implementation would be a more serious commitment. But now is the time for all of us who want this country to change to be on the alert. If we want peace to advance and to advance smoothly, we must continue to be vigilant, using all of the means for struggle that have been made available while not abandoning any, above all those that are a guarantee.

* Facundo Guardado on Agricultural Cooperatives

92CA0144A San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 4 Apr 92 p 6

[Report by Juan Jose Garcia]

[Text] "We are promoting the development of property partnerships in rural areas because we believe they will play a decisive part in our nation's future," said the leader of the former Salvadoran insurgency movement, Facundo Guardado.

Guardado, formerly a peasant leader and guerrilla commander in northern El Salvador, is one of the most charismatic leaders of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. After spending 18 years as a rebel, he has now turned to politics and says he is "working to give the peasants direct access to sales and exports of their products and to imports of their raw materials."

The FMLN's new campaign will not be an easy one; it has given up armed combat in order to seek political power. The transformations it is seeking in Salvadoran agriculture will require a "revolution" because they will limit the traditional power of the top agricultural exporters, who own practically all of El Salvador's national resources.

"If the peasants begin to get directly involved in processing, sales, and exports of their products, that would generate better living conditions because it will give them higher incomes," said Guardado.

Facundo was one of the early organizers of the FMLN's peasant network, especially in the northern department of Chalatenango. He was twice taken prisoner, and on one of these occasions he was "disappeared." His formal education was limited; however, he is known as an ideologist who has transformed the FMLN's thinking.

He believes that to improve their living conditions, Salvadoran peasants could begin to grow nontraditional export products, which at the present time are in great demand in the United States, Japan, and Europe.

"But we do have a problem here," says Guardado. "To give you an example, in El Salvador there is a small group that tightly controls sesame production. They are the exporters, and the earnings go directly back to them and not to the peasants who produce this crop."

"The right talks about the cooperative movement, saying that property partnerships are not an efficient way to develop the economy," he added, "but what they do not say is that it is impossible for cooperatives to develop if they are strangled economically by the financial system, if they have no access to sales and raw material imports."

To solve the problem, will the government have to be changed? "Of course," answered Guardado, "the present government is not going to support the workers, the peasants, or the communities because they go against its neoliberal essence, which seeks only to further enrich a small group of people."

"This will require a political change," insists this former guerrilla leader who now lives in a "normal" house in San Salvador with his wife and young son; one of his neighbors is a colonel in the army that he fought for over a decade.

The top FMLN leaders have proclaimed that the war is definitely over and that their former enemies are now political adversaries.

"You always run a risk, but that risk is worthwhile; no matter what the difficulties, this process is not going to

stop and the war is not going to start up again. That is why we say that solutions must be found for the problems we face in El Salvador: the lack of jobs, housing, and health care," he said emphatically when asked about the possibility of action by the ultrarightist death squads.

Guardado is one of the few "barbudos" [bearded men] among the former Salvadoran rebels; he survived hard times in his guerrilla life and has many memories of his guerrilla experiences and of his fallen comrades.

Still, he believes that in the mountains "there are places where I will always want to return; I have always thought of visiting them in peacetime. Many of them are quite lovely and really have no connection with the war; instead, they are places to go for relaxation and to get a fresh outlook on life."

Guatemala

Minister Says Student Disturbances Not Tolerated

PA0605164592 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Government Minister Fernando Hurtado Prem confirmed on 5 May that the security forces have been instructed to act firmly to prevent a repetition of the disturbances staged last week by students from government schools.

[Begin recording] [Hurtado] Any disruption of order will be (?dealt with) in accordance with the law. The president has been categorical: Public disorder and disturbances will not be tolerated. We will take action again if new disturbances are staged.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the riot platoon prepared to act?

[Hurtado] Yes, it is prepared.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the anonymous calls reporting bombs at schools and public buildings?

[Hurtado] I have already stated my views. It is a campaign to generate an artificial climate of fear, instability, and terror. In any case, they have consequences. People must evacuate buildings, school children must be evacuated, and that creates a certain situation. The calls prove that some individuals want to do harm, destabilize the country, create an artificial climate, and instill fear in the people.

[Reporter] Regarding the students under arrest. You are an attorney; it has been said they cannot be held for longer than 24 hours, yet they are going to be held under arrest for 45 days.

[Hurtado] A judge made that decision. In my opinion—the people must understand this—a judge's decisions cannot always be described as arbitrary. If he decided that they will remain in jail for a certain length of time, he must have a legal reason for doing so. We are accustomed to seeing things done without anyone ever being punished. Now that the different state bodies are applying sanctions, the people are worrying and complaining. This decision was made by a court that felt there was sufficient evidence to warrant keeping the students under arrest. It is a good decision, it adheres to the law, and I respect it. [end recording]

Bomb Threats at Education Center, U.S. Embassy

PA0605230892 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 May 92

[Excerpts] Another bomb threat created an incident at another education building near the civic center. This new emergency occurred in the Guatemalan-American Center, IGA, located in Zone 4 adjoining the city. IGA administrative personnel phoned authorities and said they received an anonymous call warning that a bomb allegedly had been placed inside the building.

The National Police deployed members of the Special Operations Brigade, known by the acronym BROPES, while the U.S. Embassy also deployed members of its security personnel to cooperate in the operation. The IGA is an institute that works in close cooperation with the U.S. diplomatic mission. [passage omitted]

The alarm about the bomb threat also affected the diplomatic sector accredited to this capital on the morning of 6 May. A telephone call was received at the U.S. Embassy located on Reforma Avenue of Zone 9. The embassy office received a telephone call from an individual who said that a bomb had been planted in the embassy gardens. U.S. Embassy security personnel, assisted by National Policemen, searched for the bomb. After a few minutes, however, both parties concluded that it was a false alarm. The U.S. Embassy has sophisticated security equipment and is carefully guarded throughout the day.

Education Minister Condemns 6 May Bomb Attack

PA0705002192 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 May 92

[Excerpts] Education Minister Maria Luisa Beltranena de Padilla condemned the bomb attack and discussed the incident during an interview at her office this morning.

[Begin recording] [Beltranena] I totally repudiate this terrorist act, which has been directed against the personnel of the Education Ministry. All the Education Ministry personnel had been working since the early morning hours. It has been quite a shock to them. We are very concerned and sad to see that evil Guatemalans are engaging in this type of terrorist activity against hard-working Guatemalans who are doing their jobs.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the losses?

[Beltranena] The material losses are estimated to be considerable. Virtually all the windows in the Education Ministry Office building were broken. Doors were

destroyed, and gaping holes were opened up in what used to be the file room. We have to assess the damages. We do not have the exact figure on the losses because we were only allowed to enter briefly to see the damage. There is a strong suspicion there may be two other bombs. They are trying to defuse them.

[Reporter] How many persons were injured?

[Beltranena] We have a report there were three persons injured. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Are they all employees of the ministry?

[Beltranena] Yes, all of them are Education Ministry personnel.

[Reporter] Do you think this terrorist act was due to the incidents that have occurred as a result of the student problems?

[Beltranena] That is not what I believe. It is just that evil Guatemalans take advantage of these type of difficulties to increase their terrorist activities against those who are burdened by other problems. On 5 May, we also had bomb scares that caused evacuations at both the IGA [Guatemalan-American Center], and the [word indistinct]. We have received reports that there have been more bomb threats against private schools and other organizations. All of this, as I said, is intended to maintain a climate of terror and insecurity. This is at a time when we are working on all the issues in our meetings with professors, directors, and with everyone. We hope to reestablish education at its best, to make proper evaluations, and to derive positive actions from the crisis that we experienced last week.

[Reporter] Will the Education Ministry make a decision to temporarily close any of the Education Ministry institutes or schools to prevent this from reoccurring?

[Beltranena] At the moment, we are asking for security for all the buildings of the Education Ministry and for all the schools. That is the most important thing. If the situation of threats and risks merits it, we will have to adopt measures to protect the students and teachers. [end recording]

Serrano on Opposition Groups, Terrorism

PA0705014692 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 May 92

[News conference by President Jorge Serrano Elias with unidentified reporters in Guatemala City on 6 May—recorded]

[Text] [Serrano] Terrorist actions are normally described in Guatemala as destabilizing actions. According to our analysis, none of the rebel movements have played a substantial role. As the people know, these movements have not presented any specific or clear-cut demands; they are just trying to create a climate of unrest. The government has strictly abided by the law in all its actions, as suits a democratic and legally established government such as mine. There is not much the countries of the world can do to stop terrorism, except express the strongest possible condemnation and reproach. As you know, a bomb exploded a short distance from my office this morning. Although the explosion could have killed a number of people, we did not have to mourn the loss of any human lives. We condemn these actions and tell the terrorists that they will not succeed, that the Guatemalan people in general condemn them, and that the people have already realized the terrorists are not making any specific demands, something that could explain the unrest. Theirs is a fight we cannot understand. The people are peaceful and watchful. Small groups of terrorists have launched these destabilizing actions.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] Conditions for a state of emergency do not exist. I would say the truth is being exaggerated. As you know, there are groups of 30, 40, or 50 people who are protesting one thing or another. For instance, I met with one of these groups in the park across from my office for one and a half hours. We talked about a problem that has existed for more than two 2 years and which did not originate in my administration. They admit there is a limit to what the authorities can do. They asked the president of the Republic to intercede so that a conciliation process can begin. I have designated persons to initiate a conciliation process so this particular problem can be solved peacefully and so the building can be vacated. We could have done it by using force, but we did not.

You learned of the problem we experienced at INDE [National Institute of Electrification]. At some other time, the strike would have been hostile. We handled it with prudence until we reached an agreement with the INDE workers union. All the problems in the country have been solved, in accordance with the law, through dialogue.

For instance, this morning there was an historic meeting at this office. For the first time, the president of the Republic received members of the CUSG [Guatemalan Confederation for Trade Union Unity]. We clearly explained the government's point of view, heard the CUSG's demands, and we will take into consideration the things we found to be reasonable. We stated our concerns in the sense that they have claimed not to agree with de facto actions or violence. They agreed there were infiltrators in their peaceful demonstration since there were persons who painted and yelled slogans supporting the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity]. They said those actions were completely removed from what they had planned. We prudently listened to what they said. We are flattered to see that they clearly state they are by no means in favor of any rebel actions. We invited them to seek their movements'

legalization and gave them the guidelines for the legalization. We are willing to peacefully listen, within the framework of the law, to any proposal they may have.

[Reporter] Mr. President, you have said there are no conditions for a state of emergency. However, the paranoia among the people is running very high and [words indistinct].

[Serrano] We should appeal to the sanity of those who try to create an artificial atmosphere of instability. We understand there are some who oppose the state and are interested in creating instability, but there is nothing palpable. Those persons have been manipulating the truth and telling many lies. For example, some have said we will tax the goods of the family basket, whereas the law tacitly states that all the products sold at markets in cantons are tax exempt. They have tried to speculate with a number of things. You saw on 5 May how there was a massive propaganda campaign accusing the Congress and the government of a number of things. The Congress has been accused of things it has not even begun to discuss.

I wonder who financed that campaign? Where did those millions of quetzals that were spent on 5 May come from? They did not come from the people. They came from some group interested in generating this situation.

I can honestly say we have worked so the law will dictate my government's actions and the actions of the groups involved in social activities in this country. It is not right if only the government heeds the laws while other groups, protected by other kinds of impunity, remain outside the law. The Guatemalan people must realize there is no reason to provoke these feelings of instability prevailing in the country. The fact that the people have been very calm proves this. The people feel the unrest, but it has been generated by rumors.

We want to look toward the future. We are working not only to solve the problems of the past, which are immense, but also to see what we can do so Guatemala may experience dignity, respectability, prosperity, and peace in the future. I believe all of these are artificially generated events meant to distract us. They have been set up to try to get the government to fall into the trap of confronting groups, thereby sidestepping its basic duties related to economic stabilization, consolidation of the peace process, and application of the law. We will not fall into that trap.

We have said we respect the laws and we are subjecting everyone to them. The demagogy regarding my trips has reached the point where the people sometimes feel that I have been abroad all the time, but it is actually not until now that I will go abroad for the first time. This is illogical. It is not right to use demagoguery to the detriment of the country's interests. We do not want confrontation. The country is not submerged in confrontation. There is a small group that wants to take advantage of the situation to make it look like a very unstable situation. That may be their dream because they could never reach power through a fair and popular election.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] There are several groups, but I would prefer not to specify them because you have seen them.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] No, we have had an excellent relationship with the businessmen. We are not alluding to the hardworking and responsible political parties in Guatemala. The serious political parties in Guatemala are committed to the democratic process currently taking place. We are discussing our differences in a positive and open atmosphere. We have been able to reach some agreements.

Despite the fact that we have serious differences with the private sector in Guatemala, both parties have been able to reach agreements in a very civilized and undivided manner. You have also seen that we have maintained permanent dialogues with the unions in this country. These dialogues have been open and straightforward. It has been the same with the grass-roots sectors. You have just seen CUSG representatives leaving my office. I have spoken to them. I have also received representatives from the CER [expansion unknown]. In other words, we have not received any opposition from the groups represented in Guatemala. However, we have received opposition from groups that are considered exclusively minority groups and which do not represent any particular line. The fact that the government is consolidating is a matter of great concern to these groups.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] In one way or another, the URNG undoubtedly has some role to play in everything that is taking place. The defense minister and the government minister pointed out that we have sufficient evidence that leads us to believe the URNG is responsible for most of the terrorist attacks that have been taking place in Guatemala. They are secretly trying to stir up trouble. They probably believe that at this time they can obtain a more favorable position at the negotiating table. They probably do not realize they are really turning the people against them. The only thing they are going to obtain is more rejection from the people.

We have been able to detect other groups specifically created by the drug traffickers to weaken the government. The existence of a strong government is not advantageous to the guerrillas or the drug traffickers. A strong government is a government that can truly fight against them and implement policies aimed at wiping them out. They are intent on weakening us and keeping us occupied with less important issues.

We do not think we should waste our time trying to solve frivolous issues. It is important for us to look toward the future and try to determine the projects we really need to implement. At this time we are in need of housing projects. As you all know, we recently had to intervene in

the National Housing Bank [BANVI] because of its financial difficulties. It reached the point where the government could not allow the bank to fall any further into insolvency. We are now planning to establish a Guatemalan Housing Fund [FOGUAVI]. The goal of this agency will be to operate as a financial institution to support the housing projects we plan to implement in Guatemala. We wanted to do it through BANVI but were unable to do so because it was so immersed in financial difficulties. Things are really bad with the bank. Therefore, we decided to intervene, but we do not plan to abandon the housing projects. That is why we quickly established the FOGUAVI, which will be responsible for the funding.

You are all aware that we have worked hard to distribute land ownership titles. Our objective is to distribute at least 1,200 titles each month. However, we believe this is not enough so we also decided to establish the FONATIER [expansion unknown]. It is a special fund created to distribute land among the peasants. We are working toward fulfilling one of the greatest goals of all Guatemalan peasants: land ownership. That is one of the things we are currently working on. All these projects are currently in their initial stages. We are presently arranging international financial assistance. We are also meeting with congressional groups to establish the legal framework that will regulate the government's activities.

That means we have agreements for short- and long-term projects with the private sector, labor sector, and political sector. We are progressing. Guatemala needs a better future and four, five, or 100 troublemakers cannot stop the state from progressing. We will continue to move ahead. The law, the police, and the judicial bodies can deal with the troublemakers. Our responsibility is to maintain a state of law and to look to the future. That is what I want, and that is what I want you, Messrs. journalists, to convey to the Guatemalan people.

[Reporter] How is the [words indistinct]?

[Serrano] We are working hard on that. We have experienced many positive results stemming from the meeting of officials. I want to tell you that I am hopeful that the process will gradually be smoothed out. We are working, through an effective action by Monsignor Quesada Toruno, and we are negotiating with the interests of the state in mind and, as always, in accordance with the law. [passage indistinct].

* Capital Faces 'Gravest' Water Shortage

92CA0143C Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Guatemala City, with its 2 million inhabitants, is facing the most serious shortage of drinking water in its history. Over the past two years the rains have fallen off considerably, and water levels in subterranean aquifers reflect declines in available water, which is a matter for concern. This situation makes it possible to foresee an uncertain future for the water supply.

The Municipal Water Company [Empagua] provides inadequate service because it has limited resources, its directors say. It is impossible to expand service to a metropolis that is spreading out in a disorderly way and leaving a least 800,000 of its residents without drinking water.

The shortage is accentuated in this Valle de la Virgen [Valley of the Virgin], because the few rivers that have supplied water for the past several years have suffered a serious reduction in their flow due to atmospheric phenomena, such as the ocean current called El Nino. Imbalances caused by man, including uncontrolled deforestation, immigration from the countryside to the capital, the paving of surfaces in metropolitan areas, and the lack of a master plan for urban growth, have also caused droughts.

The problem is complicated because possible solutions require the investment of more than $2.0 billion, Empagua officials point out. They recognize that the flow of water is short by more than 65,000 "pajas" [130,000 cc of water per second] and that projects they developed 18 years ago could not be carried out due to a lack of finance.

Empagua provides service to 80 percent of the homes in Guatemala City. However, every day it receives more than 125 new requests for service that it cannot meet. The municipal authorities say this situation deserves the support of all governmental institutions. If this is not done, the drought could cause an exodus of residents of the capital over the next 15 years.

Empagua has revealed that the decline in its flow of water is from 3.5 down to 2.5 cubic meters per second, which is equivalent to 60,000 liters of water per minute or 360,000 liters per hour. Thus, during a single day the decline amounts to 23 million gallons. In the field of health, doctors at Roosevelt and San Juan de Dios Hospitals have announced that they might suspend service to the public because of a lack of water, since their wells have dried up. This makes a troublesome situation even worse.

Empagua has an annual budget of 115 million quetzales, of which it spends 38 million quetzales on the collection, distribution, and storage of potable water for more than 1.5 million residents of the city.

* Rodil Denounces Corruption in Judicial System

92CA0143A Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Apr 92 p 18

[Text] Juan Jose Rodil Peralta, president of the Supreme Court of Justice and of the Guatemalan judicial system, stated on 31 March that he had detected high levels of corruption in the judicial system's supply department. At the same time, he announced that the labor conflict resulting from the dismissal of six workers had been resolved.

Rodil Peralta said he had obtained evidence that the prices of materials purchased for the judicial system's use were above market levels. Consequently, he announced that during his administration he was never going to permit misuse of the taxpayers' money.

The six workers were dismissed because several invoices were found with prices higher than market prices, Rodil Peralta added.

The judiciary official said he had contracted with a firm of private auditors to undertake an exhaustive investigation into the accounting operations of the judicial system's supply department because he believes many acts of corruption have been committed there.

Rodil Peralta said: "If the result of the audit shows that anomalies have taken place, the criminal responsibilities of the employees involved in this case will be determined, to establish a precedent."

He indicated that the leaders of the Judicial System Workers Union [STOJ] agree that any worker involved in illegal activities should be tried in a criminal court.

The workers of the judicial system stopped work on 31 March for five hours as a sign of protest over the dismissal of six workers of this state entity's supply department.

All of the workers congregated in the vestibules of the court building and of the Supreme Court of Justice, while STOJ leaders met with Rodil Peralta.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Otto Zeissig, secretary general of the STOJ, announced to reporters that the labor dispute was resolved when Rodil Peralta agreed that the six workers who had been dismissed would be transferred to another department.

Zeissig also stated that Rodil Peralta guaranteed job security to them. However, he warned that any worker found engaged in acts of corruption would be dismissed and tried in a criminal court.

The trade union leader said authorities of the Supreme Court of Justice were within their rights in taking such disciplinary action as they consider appropriate, provided that the evidence against those found guilty of illegal actions is made available.

He also commented that trade union leaders asked the president of the Supreme Court of Justice to provide an explanation for the transfer of the secretary of the Court of the State of Zacapa, in Jutiapa, because in his view there was no reason why this change should take place. The secretary was not involved in any way in the incident concerning the preparation of an order for the release of Arnoldo Vargas Estrado, who had been tried for the crime of involvement in narcotics trafficking.

The conversation with Rodil Peralta was positive. Proof of this was that it was agreed to hold another meeting on the afternoon of 31 March to decide on the relocation of the six supply department workers who had been dismissed.

Furthermore, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice announced that he is considering the construction of another court building and is arranging for the financing to complete this project.

He stated that he recently met with a group of bankers to obtain the financing for the construction of a housing estate for judicial system workers.

Rodil Peralta said: "During my administration, I am prepared to provide various benefits to judicial system workers to raise their salaries. However, I hope that they will respond by doing good work."

He added that he plans to meet with the judicial system workers to propose a program to improve coordination in the administration of justice.

Rodil Peralta added that the image of the judicial system has to change because it is what the Guatemalan people are demanding.

Nicaragua

Assembly President Comments on Washington Trip

PA0605173392 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] During a news conference on 5 May, National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar pointed out that his recent trip to Washington was strictly to meet with U.S. congressmen. He said former Government Minister Carlos Hurtado did not travel with him, nor did he bring U.S. congressmen any property legislation proposal.

According to Mr. Cesar, Daniel Ortega's presence in Washington has not been able to deter the constant road blocks and takeovers of public and private property that are leading President Violeta Chamorro's democratic government into chaos and anarchy.

[Begin Cesar recording] My recent trip to Washington was publicly announced in a National Assembly communique. As the communique stated, the reason for the trip was to meet some U.S. congressmen with whom I was unable to meet during my February trip. It was impossible to meet with them at that time because the Joint Foreign Relations Committee and the Joint Appropriations Committee are made up of approximately 60 representatives from both parties. Nicaragua has to deal directly with both committees. As I said, it was impossible for me to meet all of them during my first visit, so I still had important issues to discuss with some of these government officials. There is absolutely no truth to the reports that Carlos Hurtado traveled with me. Reports that I took a property legislation proposal with me to present to the congressmen are also false.

During my meeting in Washington, I was able to clearly detect that the U.S. Congress' perception of the Nicaraguan Government's credibility has greatly diminished. I do not have all the information at this time since much of the details of these conversations are kept in confidence. Apparently, Nicaraguan Government representatives who have been visiting Washington and meeting with U.S. Government officials, congressmen, and senators have committed themselves to making some changes but have failed to do so. Obviously, that has resulted in Washington's serious questioning of the Nicaraguan Government's credibility. Since my last visit to Washington two months ago, I was very surprised to see how far Nicaragua's credibility had deteriorated.

Some of the U.S. congressmen, senators, and fellow legislators are concerned about fundamental issues such as the property problem. Not only is this problem not being solved, no progress is being made at all. The past week's land takeovers are proof of that. Another issue about which U.S. officials have expressed their concern has to do with the Sandinist People's Army, the National Police, and economic growth. Considering the unstable situation in Nicaragua, U.S. officials are beginning to wonder how economic growth will come about. That more or less summarizes what took place during my trip to Washington.

Since I was out of the country during the events last week, I would like to express my opinion on that issue. These events did not really begin last week, they began three weeks ago. I am referring to the constant farm takeovers, the blocking of roads leading to main cities throughout the country, and to other violent acts against public offices. As we have been hearing all morning from the assemblymen at the National Assembly session, I agree that these events are an indication that Nicaragua is rapidly sliding into anarchy and total chaos. It is the government's responsibility to halt this situation, which is completely out of control. I disagree that it is up to everyone in the country to find solutions. If it is true that all Nicaraguans have an obligation to contribute to our country's well-being, it is no less true that the government has the power and authority to solve all these problems. Either the government comes up with solutions, or it acknowledges that it cannot do the job and calls on various national groups for assistance.

I believe there is a very serious and permanent sense of arrogance originating from the government, which has not responded to our public call. Concrete solutions are not being suggested for all the anarchistic and chaotic situations that we are seeing more and more frequently. That is the case simply because the government has been isolating itself from the political forces that brought it to power and from other social sectors. The government constantly attempts to solve all problems by itself, without acknowledging that it is virtually impossible to do so without assistance. In my opinion, the National Opposition Union [UNO] is best prepared to offer concrete solutions to the current crisis. At the end of 1991, UNO presented a proposal for a national dialogue that includes the participation of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] at a later stage, after the government and UNO have settled their differences.

As I said, the situation in Nicaragua is very serious. We have lost the opportunity for a normal agricultural cycle. This is the third consecutive time that has taken place since this administration came to power. As a result, the employment situation in Nicaragua will continue to degenerate. [end recording]

Government Measures Against Libya Explained

PA0605202792 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 5 May 92 pp 1, 10

[Report by Aura Lila Moreno]

[Text] Amid strong criticism of the government's measures against the Libyan diplomatic mission in our country, Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal said that for the first time in history "Nicaragua maintains a totally independent foreign policy."

Leal stressed that President Violeta Barrios Chamorro's government is conducting an independent, dignified, efficient, and pragmatic foreign policy. He added that during the days of the dictatorship, submission to U.S. decisions was evident, and "the previous government defined its policy according to the decisions adopted by the Soviet bloc."

At a news conference, Leal justified the government measures, saying they were taken to "faithfully and strictly comply" with UN Security Council Resolution 748, which established that states should considerably reduce the number and level of diplomatic missions and restrict or control the movement of their personnel.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reduced the number of Libyan diplomatic personnel in Managua by one and established that the diplomats must remain within a 30-km radius of the diplomatic mission.

To move beyond the established 30-km limit, Libyan mission personnel must notify the Foreign Ministry's General Directorate of Protocol. "We are not controlling or restricting their movements, as the UN resolution states," Leal said. He admitted that the fact that the Libyan diplomats must give notice of their movements beyond the stipulated distance "is sort of a control measure, but not restrictive."

"Notwithstanding the bilateral relations between Nicaragua and Libya, we will strictly and faithfully comply with the UN resolution," Leal stressed, adding that the government will maintain its relations with Libya at the current level.

In reply to media criticism that the Nicaraguan Government "is more papist than the pope," Leal said that other countries have adopted similar or stronger measures. He noted that Canada closed its Libyan airline office, Italy expelled six diplomats and intercepted a plane, Austria

expelled two of its nine Libyan officials, and Venezuela withdrew its diplomatic mission.

Leal noted that although "some people say we are following U.S. policies," Nicaragua voted in favor of 83 of the 86 resolutions issued during the 45th UN General Assembly, while the United States only voted in favor of 52.

Leal called a news conference, during which he officially announced the cancelation of President Barrios de Chamorro's trip to Colombia because of recent acts by the revueltos [mixed recompa and recontra elements] in several Nicaraguan departments.

'Hundreds of Revueltos' Seize Entrance to Masaya

PA0605224792 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Hundreds of revueltos [mixed recontra and recompa elements] have occupied the main entrances to Masaya since the morning of 5 May. The revueltos also took over offices at the Mayor's Office, Attorney General's Office, and the Agriculture Ministry and demanded that the government fulfill the agreements that have been signed.

The over 1,500 revueltos who have Masaya under siege warned they will completely block that city if they do not reach an agreement with the government on 6 May. In the meantime, Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta held meetings last night with a revuelto delegation that is occupying Masaya, but the results are not yet known.

Mendieta said that, depending on the progress of the talks, it was possible that the problem of that city's revueltos could be solved on the evening of 5 May.

However, our correspondent, Alejandro Cruz, reported a few minutes ago that all entrances to Masaya are completely blocked.

Masaya Road Cleared

PA0705041392 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Masaya police sources have reported that at a meeting between protesters and a commission made up of government officials, it was agreed to lift the roadblock on the highway that leads from Masaya to Tipitapa and Managua.

A commission was appointed to travel to Managua to talk with Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta Artola to discuss the problems. The commission is made up of Masaya Government Delegate Raul Morales, Masaya Mayor Sebastian Potoy, National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen Delegate Jorge Martinez, and Sandinist National Liberation Front Delegate Fernando Brenes.

Demonstrators Protest Appointment of New Governor

PA0605184192 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 May 92

[From the nonofficial "Extravision" newscast, directed by Manuel Espinoza, former information minister under the Ortega administration]

[Text] [Announcer] Most Bluefields residents remained in their homes on the evening of 4 May, as supporters of Alvin Guthrie [former governor of the South Atlantic Autonomous region] demonstrated in Central Park. We have a special report from Bluefields by Dorothy Whitaker.

[Whitaker] At this time about 500 people have gathered at Reyes Park. They were summoned by Alvin Guthrie and regional council members to protest the appointment of Ray Hooker as the new governor. There are some 120 policemen in the area to control the crowd in case of any disturbance. Alvin Guthrie's supporters are calling for the demonstrators to remain at the park for the rest of the evening and tonight to listen to music.

Mariano Fiallos, president of the Supreme Electoral Council, was here on 4 May and said he was unable to comment on the legality of the appointment, after the election of the new board of directors and the new governor Alvin Guthrie [sentence as heard].

[Announcer] We understand that Mariano Fiallos was going to swear in the new governor.

[Whitaker] Yes, but former Governor Alvin Guthrie and the council members filed a formal complaint at the Regional Electoral Council, which was then sent to Mariano Fiallos, to challenge the way the elections were held.

[Announcer] Francisco Campbell of the Autonomy Defense Movement said in Managua that the new governor's election is completely legal, according to the autonomy laws.

[Begin recording] [Campbell] According to the autonomy law, general elections must be held every four years. The board of directors must be elected every two years, and the governor can be replaced at any time. If he loses majority support by the Council, he loses his post. That is what happened to Mr. Guthrie; he lost the majority. A coalition formed by Sandinists, members of the Yatama Fighters' Association, and one representative of the National Opposition Union, UNO, decided on 4 May to remove Guthrie and to elect Deputy Ray Hooker. Everything was done in strict accordance with the law.

[Unidentified Reporter] Where does Mr. Guthrie stand now?

[Campbell] Mr. Guthrie remains a member of the Autonomous Regional Council, and he has his seat on the National Assembly. Now, if he really is the democrat

he claims to be, he should respect the will of the majority. If he wishes to become governor again, then he must regain the trust of the coastal people, who are not really convinced that Guthrie is committed to the autonomy process. [end recording]

Peasant Group Meets To Discuss Demands

PA0605223692 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 May 92 p 8

[Text] The National Peasant Coordinating Board [CNC] met all day on 4 May to draw up a list of its major demands for the government. It also compiled a list of the agreements that have not yet been fulfilled. The CNC will submit the lists to the meeting called today by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] National Directorate. It is hoped that government officials will attend.

The CNC concurred on the need to avoid violent actions like those taking place in several departments and on the need to seek answers to the the large number of demands submitted by different groups.

It was not clear yesterday afternoon if a government representative would attend the meeting between the FSLN National Directorate and delegates of the so-called "revueltos" [mixed recontra and recompa elements]. The office of Commander Daniel Ortega reported only National Directorate members and revueltos will be in attendance. Presidential spokesman Danilo Lacayo, in turn, said he had no information about the matter "because we are involved in the burial of Commander Franklyn." [Israel Galeano]

The CNC agreed to attend the meeting with the National Directorate, but its leaders said they wanted the government to hear their views so the agreements made are kept and so other pending matters are settled.

Daniel Nunez, National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen delegate to the CNC, opened yesterday's meeting by reporting on some agreements reached on 3 May during a meeting with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and CNC members in Jinotega.

The agreements include earmarking an area of land measuring 5,000 manzanas in Matagalpa and Jinotega Departments for the development of a vast coffee replanting program in the next five years that will benefit cooperative, former Nicaraguan Resistence [RN], and former Sandinist People's Army members whose lands are suitable for that crop. Nunez said the government was told of the need to provide technical assistance and training for each project, as well as the need to build open roads.

The coffee replanting program would include five major cooperatives in El Cua, where it is believed 60 quintals can be produced each year, Nunez indicated. The CNC also agreed the ownership titles of cooperatives should be valid documents for obtaining financing, something former servicemen can obtain with their respective leasing contracts.

A fund will also be created in the country's slaughterhouses [mataderos] for former RN members who would be excluded from the coffee replanting program.

RN representative Luis Fley, better known as "Johnson," voiced his concern over the wave of violence that recently shook the country. He added that CNC members are opposed to violence, especially takeovers of farms and roads, because "the CNC does not support that form of struggle."

The RN leader noted small-scale producers are at a standstill without credit, while the unemployment rate and lack of opportunities in rural areas are on the rise. He said RN members are seriously hurt by the government bureaucracy since the documents granted by the government to get bank loans are not honored.

Farm Workers' Association delegate Jose Adan Rivera described the dramatic unemployment rate in rural areas. "In 1968, 100,000 people were permanently employed, and 30,000 held temporary jobs. Now it is the other way around, with 100,000 people jobless and 30,000 holding jobs that barely pay 5 cordobas a day.

Lacayo Meeting With Region Mayors Reported

PA0605153092 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Ernesto Robleto, director of the Presidential Press and Information Directorate, has announced the results of the meeting between mayors of the First Region and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, held at the Presidential Palace on 4 May.

Among those who participated in the meeting were Jaime Icabalceta, construction and transportation minister; Roger Mendieta, director of INAA [Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute]; and 14 of the 26 First Region mayors.

In response to recent events, the mayors rejected the attitude of those persons and groups that do nothing but attempt to destabilize the country. The mayors also supported the administration.

Robleto confirmed once again the government's decision to not sign any new agreements and to adhere strictly to those that have already been signed.

[Begin recording] [Robleto] This meeting is to be held regularly between the mayoralties, the Presidency Ministry, and various other ministries to analyze regional problems. The First Region's problems stand out. For this reason, the presidency minister, the construction minister, the government minister, the director of INAA, and other members of the cabinet were all present at the 4 May meeting. In the meeting, they discussed current problems in the First Region. Only 14 of the 26 First

Region mayors could be present at the meeting; the other 12 mayors could not get through because of traffic jams. We must point out...[pauses] it is very important to mention a communique that we will be handing out in a few minutes. The communique was signed by all the mayors and it repudiates the recent events in some of the mayoralties that have been taken over. In addition to the takeover of some mayoralties, there have also been takeovers of some other government institutions to demand long-term solutions from the government.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Lacayo [as heard], we understand that the most important problem in Esteli, Madriz, and Segovia has been the drought emergency situation. What solution have they found?

[Robleto] The problem is that these groups want to mix everyday problems in that zone with recent political demands. The government has been very clear and emphatic about separating any regional problem from forceful demands. This government can never condone situations where people want to impose violent solutions to problems that were never solved—as Presidency Minister Lacayo has said—during the 10-year Sandinist Government. Millions of manzanas of land were given away and problems still persisted. These groups cannot now use force to pressure the government and make new demands, in addition to the government's existing commitments. The government is trying to keep those commitments with the best goodwill.

[Reporter] Mr. Robleto, we understand, then, that a solution had already been found for the Esteli problem, when Bigote de Oro [recontra leader Alcides Rodriguez] stated that social problems—such as housing and other demands—already had been solved. That means that these gentlemen are going back on what they had already agreed on.

[Robleto] Unfortunately, little information actually gets filtered down to the rank and file. We noted on a previous occasion that the rank and file did not have enough information about the agreements signed or about the recent conversations with the government, and yet in a few hours they were already deciding to stage a takeover. The important thing is that all the mayors are united at this point, and they are supporting the government's initiatives as well as repudiating this type of attitude, an attitude that leads us nowhere. To find solutions to these conflicts, there has to be stability. We cannot find solutions through destabilization.

[Reporter] It would be important, Mr. Robleto, for the leaders of these people to commit to informing them about the agreements signed by the government and about the government's good intentions, so there would not be outbursts asking for...[pauses] or making the same demands.

[Robleto] That is why the government has made it very clear that it will not sign any new agreements; this issue would then become a game in which the government signs an agreement, only to be accused of not complying with it. The government, through the Government Ministry, has made it very clear that it will definitely dedicate all its efforts to the strict observance of all the points that have been agreed to. In order for this to happen, those making demands should be very specific about which issues have already been fulfilled and which issues have yet to be fulfilled due to problems that still exist, and accept the fact that despite these problems there is still goodwill on the part of the government. It is important to let those persons who feel that the government has not respected the agreements know that they must throughly examine the issues they feel the government has not respected. All these agreements are being discussed by the negotiating commission and the Government Ministry. [end recording]

Civic Movement Denounces 'Totalitarian Plan'

PA0705044592 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 May 92

[Communique issued by the Let Us Save Democracy Civic Movement in Managua on 5 May]

[Text] In view of the events taking place in Nicaragua, the Let Us Save Democracy Civic Movement, in a genuine expression of the Nicaraguan people, hereby denounces the following:

1. From the moment we organized our movement, we have been alerting the nation to the unpatriotic campaign being waged by the enemies of democracy, specifically against the democratization process. That campaign includes actions such as taking over rural property that is in full production, illegal and violent strikes, blackmail, kidnapping, and so forth.

2. We have pointed out the following coincidence: Just a few days after General Ortega announced in Hacienda San Jacinto the creation of the rural guards to control activities in rural areas, individuals protected by the military corps and similar organizations took over properties.

3. The judiciary authorities and the media have evidence to the effect that the members of the Sandinist People's Army are responsible for the outrages and crimes committed against our rural people and the former fighters of the Nicaraguan Resistance.

4. The events we have mentioned are part of a totalitarian plan that seeks a consensus for dictatorship in the country.

Issued in the city of Managua on 6 May 1992 by the Executive Committee of the Let Us Save Democracy Civic Movement.

Government Ministry Spokesman Joins Adviser Team

PA0705040892 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 6 May 92

[Excerpt] Frank Cesar confirmed today that he has resigned his position as official spokesman for the Government Ministry to join the team of advisers to Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta as of this week.

The former spokesman for the Government Ministry said he does not know who will replace him. He added that the organizational structure within the Public and International Relations Directorate of the Government Ministry will not change. [passage omitted]

Panama

Police, Demonstrators Resume Clashes in Colon

PA0605162092 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1538 GMT 6 May 92

[Report by David Perez]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Clashes have resumed. Riot police are clashing with demonstrators here. We are currently in front of the Central Avenue Park where a group of demonstrators from an adjacent street is throwing stones at the Caja de Ahorros Bank. The Public Force members are here, and we can see police in plainclothes getting ready to face the demonstrators with weapons. We have seen the demonstrators throw bottles and incendiary bombs.

In the 10th Street area, near Central Avenue, demonstrators have positioned themselves at St. Joseph's Church. Four members of the Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed have gone on a hunger strike.

Police Retreat to Barracks

PA0605171092 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1610 GMT 6 May 92

[Report by David Perez in Colon—live, via telephone]

[Text] The situation in Colon appears increasingly tense. A few minutes ago, members of the Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed [Modesco], who were clashing with Public Force members in the Central Avenue area, made the riot police retreat to the Colon Public Force station. Under a shower of stones, bottles, and Molotov cocktails, a large number of people made the Public Force members withdraw to their barracks, where they now remain.

We are going to listen to what was going on in Colon. [Sounds of shots being fired, people shouting] The clashes continue here in the Central Avenue vicinity. We can see the Public Force members retreating. Public Force members are running down an adjacent street. The crowd is approaching the area. We can also hear high-caliber firearms being fired, not just bird shot and tear gas.

The action has shifted to the area of 12th Street, where the Colon Public Market is located. A large number of youths are throwing all kinds of objects at the Public Force members, who are retreating to the police station.

That describes what happened earlier. Public Force members remain inside the police station. There is disorder in the city of Colon. We can see a large number of people near the market, some 100 meters from the Public Force station. The people are waiting for a reaction from the riot police, who could not face them, despite using tear gas, bird shot, and even high-caliber bullets. We found a large number of bullet caps from M-16 and T-65 rifles scattered in the streets. Public Force members were unable to hold back the mob, which forced them to return to the Public Force station.

Now the situation in Colon seems to be returning to normal. The young people are returning to the park at 10th Street and Central Avenue Park, where St. Joseph's Church is located. Several Modesco leaders have gone on indefinite hunger strike as of now.

Some riot police units have left the station. They are now entering a patrol car in which they will visit the area again in an attempt to restrain the people.

Council Backs Modesco Demands

PA0605184092 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1717 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] The Colon Municipal Council has just issued a communique publicly expressing its concern over recent events in Colon. The Council states that the executive branch must discuss and find solutions in an open dialogue with the entire Colon community. The Colon Municipal Council supports the just demands of Modesco [Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed] and the people of Colon and calls for an end to violence. It renounces the meeting held in Brazos Brooks and calls on all sides to halt hostilities. It also calls for the creation of a commission representing all Colon residents so real solutions may be found jointly with the government and the private sector.

The Colon Municipal Council also states that the declaration released by President Endara on 5 May in no way constitutes an agreement between the executive branch and the people of Colon. It is a unilateral declaration by the executive branch reflecting the president's beliefs; not those of the people of Colon. The Colon Municipal Council clearly states that it did not participate in the Brazos Brooks meeting because it was not a meeting with the people. The municipal council states that it is on the side of Modesco, Frasco [Broad Front for the Rescue of Colon], and the people of Colon. It also states that the civilian struggle must be resumed in an orderly, peaceful, and responsible manner.

The communique concludes by saying those things must be done now, because tomorrow will be too late.

The communique was issued by the Colon Municipal Council during a public session a few minutes ago.

City 'Almost Out of Control'

PA0605195692 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1909 GMT 6 May 92

[Report by David Perez]

[Excerpt] The situation here in Colon is almost out of control. Public Force members and the Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed [Modesco] are in open confrontation and are shooting at each other.

A short while ago someone was seriously wounded in the face by a bullet from a .38-caliber revolver. That incident leads us to believe that the situation in Colon will become increasingly difficult as the afternoon goes on.

We have just seen some Police Investigation Department [DIP] units leave the station. Four vehicles filled with DIP personnel are leaving for downtown Colon to try to get the situation under control because Public Force personnel have been unable to do so, despite the use of bird shot, tear gas, and even firearms.

The demonstrators are still in the vicinity of 10th Street and Central Avenue. They have been shooting back at the Public Force members from there. [passage omitted]

Modesco 'Disowns' Officials

PA0705015692 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 May 92

[Report by Victor De la Hoz]

[Text] Colon City experienced moments of tension again today due to a violent confrontation between riot police and Modesco [Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed] demonstrators, who demanded the presence of President Endara in the old part of Colon City.

Since early today, demonstrators gathered around the San Jose Parish Church and blocked Central Avenue. Riot police dressed in combat attire used tear gas and bird shot and fired shots into the air to disperse demonstrators. The demonstrators hurled rocks back at the police.

The protests spread throughout the main streets that branch off Central and Amador Guerrero Avenues. Police Investigation Department units, DIP, wearing civilian clothes, arrived on the scene and began shooting into the air to give support to riot police.

Modesco Leader Reinaldo Douglas emphasized that the movement's leadership disowns the governor and the mayor as provincial authorities and disclosed that five Modesco leaders have begun a hunger strike.

[Begin Douglas recording] It was at the Brazos Brook Golf Club. That was where the president chose to meet us. We publicly reject that meeting because the true representatives of the Colon people were not there. Those who did attend were the weak representatives who have always betrayed us—the mayor and the governor—and who respond directly to the interests of the central government. We ask that these gentlemen submit their appointments to the will of the people of Colon. What we want are genuine and real authorities to work for us. [end recording]

Police made more than 15 arrests while looking for weapons. It was also learned that there were more than eight people injured by bird shot and gunshots, including two policemen who suffered gunshot wounds.

[Begin unidentified police officer recording] The goal is to prevent the roads from being closed and to try and arrest the gangsters who are shooting at us. Proof of this is a passing civilian who was wounded in the face. We are trying to recapture the street weapons, which are causing considerable harm. [end recording]

Colon Mayor Alcibiades Gonzalez said the curfew will continue and that the police will reestablish order in Colon.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] Instead of introducing solutions that will benefit the entire Colon community, what we are doing is running down the little economy that remains in Colon. Regarding disturbances, the Public Force will definitely continue to play their role and will impose order. As you know, it is going to prove a bit difficult. You have seen the streets. The police are being fired upon. I believe eventually the president is going to have to forbid firearms and allow us to definitely take control of the city once again. It is not that we have lost it, but control is difficult. It is difficult for the police to take further action, as some of us would like, while always respecting everyone's rights. [end recording]

In view of today's violent disorder, classes were suspended for two days in Colon City schools, or until things return to normal.

Government Minister Comments

PA0705025292 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier, on behalf of the Cabinet Council, reported the government's position late this afternoon regarding the problems in Colon Province.

[Begin recording] [Chevalier] Things are not as they appear, as if the government has not paid any attention to what is taking place in Colon. On the contrary, the government is giving this top priority, and we are dedicating whatever time is needed. I want to stress something: The incident that took place in Colon following the president's visit—a meeting that he attended at the very place he promised them he would attend—is not the end of the talks. Just as the president said that day, it is the beginning of the dialogue. Talks sometimes become difficult when they are about very important things or

when tempers run high. The president intends to continue the dialogue with the popular sectors in Colon Province, especially with Modesco [Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed] and Frasco [Broad Front for the Rescue of Colon]—the forces that began all this activity. The president wants to restart the talks when conditions are favorable. All dialogues are difficult at the beginning. Is that not so?

[Unidentified reporter] Nonetheless, protests and violence continue in Colon Province. What measures will be taken?

[Chevalier] You said it. There is violence, something that we all regret. Not all groups that want to participate in the presidential dialogue are involved in these organizations. There are some groups, especially those with very young and impulsive members, who believe that solutions can be found by using force. I regret that because it is not the way. They are harming Colon Province. Instead of doing Colon any good, they are causing more harm because they are paralyzing the place. These groups say they want economic reactivation in Colon, and what they do is paralyze it. [end recording]

Chorrillo Demonstrators Block Bridge, Roads

PA0605203092 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1947 GMT 6 May 92

[Report by Jose Felix Barrera in Panama City—live]

[Excerpts] This is Jose Felix Barrera in an area near the Chorrillo neighborhood, where residents have blocked the road to the Bridge of the Americas at the intersection of Avenue A and Jamaica Avenue, which leads to the Canal Area. Some units from the Balboa police station are removing rocks blocking the road. Another group of riot police—just a few because most of the riot units are in Colon—are hurling tear gas. Residents of low-income buildings are evacuating their apartments with their children, who are being affected by the tear gas. Chorrillo residents are protesting because [Chorrillo neighborhood leader] Hector Avila is being sought by the police. [passage omitted]

Police are now removing the rocks, and some vehicles are moving. Meanwhile, youths from Chorrillo's low-income apartments are clashing with riot police. They are throwing stones, while the riot police are using tear gas. Many people have taken refuge on the slopes of Ancon Hill.

Leader May Seek Asylum

PA0605224492 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2100 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] On 30 April Prosecutor Cuba Nelson de Villarreal issued an arrest warrant for El Chorrillo leader Hector Avila for violating the restraining order that had been issued by Assistant Prosecutor Heraclio Sanjur. The restraining order prohibited Avila from going near El Chorrillo neighborhood or its surrounding areas, such as Calidonia and Santa Ana, and instructed him to live in a corregimiento other than El Chorrillo.

It must be noted that Avila has been a fugitive from justice since 30 April. It is believed that he has been sheltered by residents of El Chorrillo. It is also believed that he may ask for asylum at the Peruvian Embassy on 6 May. The Peruvian Embassy is located in the Di Lido Building. At this time it is not known for sure at which embassy Avila is staying.

Bank Manager Answers U.S. Papers' Drug Charges

PA0505004792 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 May 92

[Report by Jenny Lee Martinez]

[Text] National Bank manager Luis H. Moreno has said the United States apparently wants to harm Panama. According to U.S. newspapers, the country's economic recovery is due partially to drug trafficking. Moreno had this to say:

[Begin Moreno recording] These are groundless and unfair remarks, the purpose of which is not easy to detect. Everyone is aware of the Panamanian people's great effort to reactivate the country's economy. Everyone is aware of the large amount of money that fled Panama. Those funds, in the form of clean money—identifiable with well-known enterprises and individuals—have now returned to the country.

Everyone knows that both Panamanian and foreign banks have invested $700 million in the reactivation of the country's economy. From where else would that money come? Is there an attempt to harm Panama? Is there a dark purpose? I do not know. Bear in mind, however, that from the time of Cain and Abel, wickedness has always been part of human nature. [end recording]

Moreno said there have been drug-trafficking reports for many years:

[Begin Moreno recording] I have been in this business for 30 years. For the past 20 years, since we learned of these accusations for the first time, the Banking Commission has been demanding proof of the charges. It is necessary to produce evidence of the charges, but there has been no evidence. These accusations cannot be taken seriously as long as they are not based on solid evidence. [end recording]

The truth is that drug trafficking and money laundering charges have been increasing since President Guillermo Endara assumed office. Some circles think Panama should demand an explanation of these accusations.

Endara's Firm Not Involved in Money Laundering

PA0605223792 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 May 92 p 1 A

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Ariel Alvarado, narcotics secretary of the Attorney General's Office, said on 5 May that the Endara, Solis, and Delgado Law Firm, of which President Guillermo Endara is a member, is not involved in laundering drug-trafficking money.

Endara's firm created corporations for drug traffickers Guillermo Falcon and Salvador Magluta, who are both under arrest. Reports from the United States have attempted to link the president's law firm to the criminals. "Here (in Panama) we conducted a preliminary investigation based on a request made by U.S. authorities regarding the case. We have found that no law firm is involved, and the president is also not involved," the narcotics secretary said.

What did take place was simply the creation of a corporation, but that is independent of the criminal actions of Falcon and Magluta, he added.

As for reports released by certain U.S. newspapers that drug trafficking activities have increased in Panama following the overthrow of General Manuel Noriega, Alvarado said those reports are "pure speculation with no solid basis." He said the appropriate steps are being taken to fight drug trafficking. The narcotics secretary says he cannot explain why U.S. newspapers are talking about Panama as a drug paradise even though international narcotics forums do not even mention our country. "It seems there are interests behind the newspaper campaign against our country," Alvarado said.

The official also talked about the arrest of Panamanian businessman Divaldo Cano, who has been accused of smuggling $7.1 million into Panama. "Cano will be questioned once again next week. As long as there are reasons to keep him under arrest, we will keep him there. If there are bases for trying him, we will do so," Alvarado said.

Minister on Relations With Peru, Cuba, Mexico

PA0705011192 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] On the evening of 4 May, Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares announced at the Legislative Assembly that the Panamanian Government has asked the OAS to establish a deadline for Peru to return to democracy. Linares explained Panama's position and reported on the country's relations with Peru, Mexico, and Cuba.

Foreign Minister Linares reported that Panama will not break relations with Peru, but he rejected the way the Peruvian president has acted. Minister Linares said if the commission appointed by the OAS to analyze the Peruvian situation does not perform adequately, Panama will adopt a position based on the Betancourt Doctrine of 1953.

[Begin Linares recording] I want to point out that I was the only foreign minister who said it is necessary to set a deadline so the Peru case does not turn into another case like Haiti. As I said in my speech, the Haitian authorities defied OAS decisions as if nothing had happened in that country. [end recording]

Speaking on the status of relations between Cuba and Panama, Linares said that diplomatic relations with Cuba remain down, but that is not the case regarding commercial relations. Linares also said Panama's relations with Mexico are now cordial. He noted that the Mexican Government is expected to send its ambassador to Panama.

Argentina

Air Force Plan To Purchase Skyhawks Viewed

PY0605184092 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1118 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 May (NA)— Air Force sources have reported that the purchase by the Argentine Air Force of a squadron of Skyhawk planes may frustrate the plans of Brigadier Jose Julia, the Air Force chief of staff, to buy F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-18 Hornet planes.

The sources added that the Skyhawks, which will be sent to Argentina and which will soon complete their 40th year of useful life, may be assigned to the brigades headquartered in Mendoza and Tandil.

The planes will be the first to be purchased since the Malvinas war, which was waged in April 1982.

Shortly before the war, the Argentine Government ordered 14 Skyhawks from Israel, for which it deposited some $50 million in a European bank.

Following the economic embargo imposed by the United States, however, the purchase could not be implemented. Air Force sources have said that it has not yet been clarified whether the $50 million has been released from the embargo.

The sources said that the purchase of the U.S.-made planes "could mean that the squadrons of Daggers and Mirages might be gradually dismantled" because of "the high cost of spares and maintenance."

The plane to be purchased by the Air Force sold more than any other around the world following the end of World War II. The last time they saw action was during the Malvinas war.

Argentine purchased the first Skyhawks in 1976 from the U.S. Naval Aviation and Navy Infantry. The planes were assigned to the 4th Brigade, which is headquartered in Mendoza.

British 'Concern' on Sale

PY0605190492 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 6 May 92

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta at Government House]

[Excerpts] Argentine military sources have downplayed in the past few hours the reaction and concern expressed by Chilean and British Government spokesmen and officials over the possibility that Argentina will buy Skyhawk A4M planes.

British authorities have conveyed their concern to Washington, citing the Malvinas issue. The Chilean Government, through its Defense Minister, indirectly alluded to the issue stating that its country will maintain its dissuasive capacity providing other countries of the region do not express opposition. We should recall that on Friday, 1 May, Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Jose Julia announced that before the end of the year we will see the best bombers flying in the Argentine skies.

Military sources then reported that the deal will involve two groups of 20 planes, one late this year and the other during 1993. [passage omitted]

President Menem said in Saudi Arabia, however, that the planes were part of a donation resulting from the understanding between Argentina and the United States. He also said that the planes will be used for defense.

Great Britain was the first country to voice its concern over the sale of these planes on the grounds that any weapon that can endanger the security of the Malvinas Islands represents a concern for John Major's administration. However, Great Britain admitted that the purchase was a bilateral issue between Argentina and the United States. [passage omitted]

At 0530, before leaving from Saudi Arabia, President Menem granted a final news conference to Arab journalists. Replying to a question on the purchase, Menem said that this merely represented recognition for Argentina and for its new attitude toward the world, citing the signing of the Tlatelolco Treaty on denuclearization, the dismantling of the Condor-2 missile project, and the decision to suspend the supply of nuclear material to some countries. Because of this sacrifice, the United States will give Argentina fully deactivated planes for training purposes.

Cavallo Plans To Privatize Nuclear Plants

PY0505173292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2031 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Madrid, 4 May (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo has announced that the Argentine economic leadership is working on plans to privatize nuclear plants, which will be transferred to the private sector in 1993.

Cavallo made this surprising announcement during a news conference at the residence of the Argentine ambassador to Madrid. He said that "private capital is needed" to complete the construction of the Atucha 2 nuclear plant. He noted, however, that any decision to this effect "will have to be approved by the Argentine Congress."

On the first day of his European tour, which seeks to brief officials and businessmen on the status of the Argentine economic program, Cavallo today met with Spanish Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga, with whom he reached an agreement on the rescheduling of the Argentine debt to Spanish banks.

* Delays in OSN Privatization Discussed

92SM0372A Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 6 Apr 92 p 6

[Article by Silvia Peco]

[Text] To privatize the National Sanitary Works [OSN], a rate adjustment equivalent to 8 percent of the overall revenues currently earned by the company will be authorized. To reach that percentage, discounts and bonuses will be reduced, particularly in the case of the minimum rate. The latter will be increased by more than 70 percent, from the present 4 pesos to 7 pesos, in the next few months.

Bearing in mind that the minimum service rate is charged bimonthly, it should not be very alarming if customers end up paying $7 every two months for their drinking water and sewage service.

Nevertheless, it is not yet known to what extent bonuses and discounts will be reduced for service beyond the minimum, and there is speculation that some households now paying more than 80 pesos every two months will see increases of about 20 percent.

The final setting of OSN rates is one of the aspects that must still be resolved in order to continue with the privatization of the company. Five groups have already prequalified, but the regulatory framework and the bidding specifications, which were supposed to be done by February, have not yet been completed.

The main reason for the delay appears to be the government's inability to make decisions on key aspects of the sale. It has been learned that the consultants were first instructed to operate on the assumption of a 16 percent increase in OSN's annual revenues, which amount to about $300 million. In February, they were asked to evaluate the project on the basis of no change in revenues, and in March the "privatizing committee" recommended that an 8 percent recovery be contemplated.

The latter percentage was approved last week by Secretary of Public Works Saul Bouer, who is in charge of the privatization operation. It is said, however, that his fear of Minister Cavallo has made him indecisive and evasive, an attitude that does not contribute to progress.

It is not clear whether the 8 percent increase now being considered by the consultants is the final figure because Cavallo will have to confirm it with his signature.

Goals

Once the overall revenues have been determined, the officials and consultants must establish the investment goals that will be required at least for the first five years. In other words, it will have to be decided how much can be done with the overall revenues expected.

Thus, for example, everyone agrees that in the first five years, revenues will be enough to build the fourth main sewage line; what remains to be determined is how many new customers can be hooked up to the line. The fourth line will serve 800,000 customers, but the expansion of the household network will be one of the highest expenditures, say the parties involved in the privatization.

These are not the only issues that remain to be resolved. Equally important is the lack of criteria for choosing the winning bidder.

Some members of the "privatizing committee," who include officials of OSN, Public Works, Economy, and the Bicameral Commission, are leaning toward a two-envelope system, in which Envelope A would have the technical plans for maintaining and expanding the sanitary networks and Envelope B would contain the financial bid.

The idea is that the project of each consortium would be evaluated "using criteria that would avoid subjectivity." All of the projects that are accepted would have an equal right—whether they are better or worse—to submit Envelope B with their financial bid, so that the one who requests the lowest rates above the ceiling set by the government (an 8 percent increase) would win.

It is clear that the officials who support this idea fear being accused of favoritism. They believe they will resolve the issue by publicly deciding on the bidding on the basis of a monetary figure: In the public's eyes, the winner will be the one offering to earn the least.

No Explanation

But what cannot be explained is how a project to develop the sanitary works company can be evaluated without knowing whether it is commensurate with the expected income, or even with the sources of financing.

Another topic of debate is whether the state will receive a franchise fee for granting the concession of the sanitary networks. To keep matters simple, government officials say that no franchise fee will be charged so that rates can be kept down and investment will be encouraged.

Curiously, some of the hired consultants believe that the company's cash flow is enough to allow for a franchise fee, and that if the state wants to waive it, that should be made explicit. In other words, "the franchise fee equivalent to a certain number of pesos will be earmarked for such-and-such a project."

Apparently, the privatization of something as complex and delicate as the sanitary networks requires a technical knowledge and a decisionmaking capacity that are lacking in this case. The most disturbing aspect is that these same characteristics are required for selecting the winning bidder and for exercising oversight during the term of the concession.

* Privatization of Railroad Lines Postponed

92SM0372B Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 6 Apr 92 p 9

[Text] Despite the heated political and social conflict that has been sparked by the Roca Railroad situation, the government was forced this weekend to delay putting the metropolitan railroads on the auction block.

According to the official news agency Telam, the delay was decided upon by the FEMESA [Buenos Aires Metropolitan Railways and Subways] privatization coordinating group and must still be approved by Minister Cavallo. There are signs, however, that the decision was a foregone conclusion.

Order

According to the Telam report, five of the eight prequalified consortiums in the bidding requested that the opening of bidding on the urban lines of the Mitre and Sarmiento railroads and on the Urquiza (which is being put up for bidding along with the Buenos Aires subway) be postponed from 20 April to 1 June.

This delay means that all of the dates set for the other urban railroads will have to be "slid back" 45 days. According to an earlier schedule, bidding was to be opened on 4 June for the Roca and San Martin lines and on 20 July for the Belgrano Norte and Sur lines.

Spokesmen for the privatizing committee, which is headed by Jorge Kogan and comes under the jurisdiction of Secretary of Transportation Edmundo Soria, say that the group seconded the request of the prequalified consortiums and processed the postponement "with the understanding that better offers can be obtained for all of the services being put up for bidding."

Difficulties

The delays in bidding can only be attributed to the problems the government is having in privatizing the railroads. International firms appear to be having trouble adapting to the unusual pace the Argentine government is trying to set. These assets are not nearly as attractive as the telephone company, and besides, once an offer is made, many aspects remain to be negotiated among the parties, which further delays the process.

So far, only the Rosario-Bahia Blanca corridor has been transferred to private ownership, and it is estimated that the Mitre line cannot be transferred to the Nuevo Central Argentino consortium (which was "preawarded" the contract on 15 January) any sooner than the beginning of November.

The Mitre contract is supposed to be ready this week, but it must still be approved by Minister Cavallo and the Bicameral Commission, and the decree that gives final approval must be passed. After those steps, the transfer should take place in another six months.

Chile

Silva Optimistic on Solving Honecker Case

PY0605023692 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 May 92

[Excerpts] Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma reported that the Chilean Government has lodged a formal protest before the Ecuadoran Government in view of the burning of the Chilean flag during demonstrations staged against the Colo Colo Club soccer team. Silva Cimma also said that the Honecker case will be definitely solved in three weeks.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Unidentified reporter] When do you expect the Honecker case to be resolved? Has the government set any deadlines?

[Silva Cimma] No, we have not set any deadlines, but a reasonable estimate would be in about three weeks.

[Reporter] Will a final solution to the case be achieved in this time?

[Silva Cimma] We hope so...

[Reporter, interrupting] Three more weeks?

[Silva Cimma] We hope it will be before three weeks but I do not think...

[Reporter, interrupting] Under what terms will Chile achieve a solution to the Honecker case?

[Silva Cimma] Please excuse me, but I cannot provide any specific details on this yet.

[Reporter] But are you optimistic about achieving a solution to this case....

[Silva Cimma, interrupting] Yes....

[Reporter, interrupting] Has Mr. James Holger, the head of the Chilean Government negotiating team, played a positive role in these negotiations?

[Silva Cimma] He is a prestigious man with great experience. He has done a very good job. [end recording]

Government, Labor Agree on Minimum Salary

PY0105140992 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] After intense negotiations, workers, businessmen and the government signed the agreement readjusting the basic salary to 38,600 pesos. The minimum salary and the allocation for the family allowance were agreed upon during a ceremony attended by representatives of workers and business organizations and the economy, labor, and finance ministers. Labor Minister Rene Cortazar has praised the accord and voiced his recognition to the United Labor Federation [CUT] and to the Production and Commerce Confederation.

[Begin Cortazar recording] I take this opportunity to express the Government's recognition to leaders of CUT and the Production and Commerce Confederation, because they help the country move forward along the path of social dialogue, a fact that represents a service to Chile, its democracy, and development that can generate equal opportunities for everyone. [end recording]

CUT leader Manuel Bustos said that his organization will continue to strive for the highest minimum salary.

[Begin Bustos recording] We are not really satisfied with this minimum salary. We undoubtedly must recognize that this represents important progress in the policy to improve the minimum salary implemented in the past two years. But I think we should explain the situation to the people. Many people think that the government will fix the workers' wage during this meeting. We will adopt a categorical position in this regard. Chile and the world are moving in a different direction. The state is not fixing the salaries. Chile is a developed country and consequently it needs a minimum salary that is as high as possible. [end recording]

Jose Antonio Guzman, president of the Production and Commerce Confederation, said that the agreements reached with workers are very significant.

[Begin Guzman recording] They are undoubtedly very significant for the three parties, and the government obviously has someting very important to say. We hope that as a result of this tripartite meeting, steps can be taken to achieve some of the proposals included in the accord, like job education and sanitary and security conditions at work. [end recording]

The agreement soon will be sent to Congress for approval so that it can become effective as of 1 June.

Right Refutes PS Charges of Destabilization

PY0605152092 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] The Socialist Party [PS] has charged the right with promoting a campaign to destabilize the democratic government. The PS has asserted that in view of the upcoming municipal elections, the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] and the National Renewal Party [RN] have launched this destablizing campaign to compensate for the meager electoral support they enjoy.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] PS President Ricardo Nunez, who is also a senator, has asserted that the political espionage charges raised by the UDI and the statements made on national security, the Investigative Police, and the Carabineros Corps—which have been supported by RN sectors—form part of a campaign by the right to discredit the government in view of the upcoming municipal elections.

[Nunez] The right, which is aware of its certain defeat in the upcoming municipal elections, has designed a strategy to soften the impact of its defeat. It is promoting this situation to slander, to create problems, and to obstruct the electoral process in Chile.

[UDI Vice President Hernan Larrain] We believe that the statement by the PS only seeks to confuse the public and to cover up for their lack of response following the political espionage case.

I believe that the lack of response by the PS prompted the issue of institutional stability in the first place. The UDI did not intend to refer to the situation until the PS raised the issue. [end recording]

Pinochet Closes Symposium on Defense Industry

PY0705031192 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Apr 92 p C7

[Excerpts] General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, the Army commander in chief, yesterday endorsed the Chilean defense industry and an enhanced agreement among the various sectors with the goal of exploiting their real capabilities and strengthening the progress achieved in recent years.

Pinochet said the Army "believes it is essential to receive constant support from the country's authorities" for the military industry and engineering with the goal of producing equipment for the national defense.

Pinochet spoke yesterday afternoon to close a two-day symposium on "Contemporaneous Scientific-Technological Military Development" held at the Polytechnic Military Academy. [passage omitted]

Pinochet noted: "In conclusion, the Chilean Army believes it is essential to receive constant support from the country's authorities in order to guarantee and improve the capabilities of the military industry and engineering with the goal of researching and producing defense equipment, even in times when dangers are not apparent or are not readily perceived. It would be a political mistake and would be militarily ineffective and technologically painful to attempt to create or recover such capabilities only when there is a crisis."

Pinochet pointed out that, therefore, decisions on the way in which the country must plan the development of its defense capabilities cannot be subjected to circumstantial criteria or opinions of debatable legitimacy and competence, but to a state policy that will guarantee long-term and strategic national interests. [passage omitted]

Correa Hosts Dinner for PLO Representative

PY0605144092 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 22 Apr 92 p 16

[Excerpt] Enrique Correa, the minister secretary general of government, has hosted a dinner for Husayn 'Abd-al-Khaliq, the new Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representative. Government officials and leaders of the Palestine community in Chile, including Palestine

Federation President Jamil Nazzal, Palestine Club President Carlos Dughman, and Palestine National Council deputies, were also invited.

The minister secretary general of government welcomed Husayn 'Abd-al, expressing his solidarity with the Palestine people's cause and expressing his hope for the achievement of a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict and fair and peaceful solution for all the states in that region. [passage omitted]

New Torture Cases Submitted to UN Committee

PY0405152292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1754 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Santiago, 2 May (EFE)—It was reported today in Santiago that the Committee for the Defense of People's Rights (Codepu) has reported to the United Nations 55 new cases of torture by policemen that occurred during the current democratic regime.

The document was submitted to Dutchman Peter Hooijmans, who investigates torture for the UN's Human Rights Committee and is based in the Swiss city of Geneva, by Codepu lawyer Hugo Ocampo and by Dr. Paz Rojas.

The Codepu charges that Carabineros and Investigative Police personnel are responsible for these acts of torture, and indicated that Patricio Aylwin's government has demonstrated its inability and weakness in eradicating a practice that was inherited from the military regime.

The 55 cases submitted to the United Nations have already been laid before Chilean courts.

Ocampo said: "Contrary to what one would think, the human rights situation in Chile has not yet been resolved."

"Regrettably it is a very sophisticated practice that was prepared with a lot of dedication during 16 and a half years, thus it is very difficult to pretend that it has disappeared. Torture cannot disappear overnight," he said.

Ocampo acknowledged that torture, which is a violation of human rights, is no longer government policy and explained that organizations like the Codepu maintain permanent dialogue with the government in order to improve the government's policy in this area.

Most of the 55 cases are a result of police excesses although, according to a reiterated government statement, police organizations have strict orders to respect human rights and the physical integrity of detainees.

The Codepu's lawyer stated that there are still 50 political prisoners in Chile. He stressed that no one who violated human rights during the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet has been sentenced.

Some important cases that deal with the murder of leaders who opposed Pinochet and which caused a national commotion are now being heard by the Chilean courts. Influential members of the dissolved secret police of the military regime are involved in these cases.

Visa Agreements Signed With Caribbean Nations

PY0605181092 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Apr 92 p C4

[Summary] Chile will eliminate the visa requirement with three English-speaking Caribbean nations in order to strengthen bilateral ties between Chile and that region. The first agreement was signed yesterday with Antigua and Barbuda, today one will be signed with Grenada, and on 30 April one will be signed with Trinidad and Tobago. These agreements are part of the activities conducted by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma during a tour that also includes Jamaica. While in Antigua and Barbuda, the foreign minister also signed an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation.

Colombia

Minister Pardo Briefs Senators on Guerrilla Acts

PA0605195792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] The guerrillas carry out one attack every day on the country's economy. At this time, Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda is addressing a special Senate session. Marcela Duran has the details:

[Duran] Defense Minister Pardo Rueda has stated that the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] carries out a terrorist act every 24 hours. He added that these acts are not only aimed against the military forces but also the civilian population.

Before the Senate's Second Commission which summoned him, Pardo Rueda voiced his concern over an increase in CNGSB terrorist acts in urban areas, such as Medellin two days ago.

He said that the public force is capable of facing subversion but conceded that some terrorist acts cannot be prevented.

[Begin Pardo Rueda recording] This seems worrisome to me because it is basically a mechanism of pressure on the civilian population in an effort to make them accept what we have had in Colombia in the past but what we will always reject. [end recording]

Referring to the talks in Mexico, he said that the government has maintained, to the end, its desire to find peace but the CNGSB decided to postpone the talks because of internal divisions. Pardo Rueda rejected the possibility of holding regional talks.

According to intelligence information, 50 percent of the CNGSB is concentrated in the middle Magdalena

region, in other words in Santander, part of Boyaca, southern Bolivar, and Cesar Departments.

Peace Adviser Serpa on Failure of Tlaxcala Talks

PA0705042592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Government Peace Adviser Horacio Serpa on 6 May addressed the Colombian people on the lack of guarantees to resume the peace talks with the Guerrilla Coordinating Board in Tlaxcala [Mexico].

[Begin Serpa recording] The important mediation by the Catholic Church was laughed at and the offer to study the government's arguments was completely disregarded, although these arguments were at all times polite, specific, objective, formal, reasonable, well-known, and backed by the public. [end recording]

Serpa said he is not at all sure the peace talks will continue. He did say, however, that the possibility of talking with the dissidents exists.

[Begin Serpa recording] The Social Renovation faction, which formerly was part of the National Liberation Army, has proposed to begin peace talks with the government. The government has agreed. I hope to give the country good news in the next few days. The government is ready and willing. [end recording]

Popular pressure is expected in the six months prior to October.

[Begin Serpa recording] The Colombian people cannot continue to be kept in a state of unrest by a small group of violent people. [end recording]

Two Unions Merge To Form Central Organization

PA0505224392 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 28 Apr 92 p 10

[Text] The Central Organization of Democratic Workers of Colombia [Central de Trabajadores Democratas de Colombia—CTDC] was born on the evening of 27 April at the headquarters of the Club of Official Employees; it has the patronage of 250 labor leaders of the American Continent and Europe and the blessing of Latin American leader Emilio Maspero. The CTDC is a result of the fusion of the General Confederation of Colombian Workers (CGTC) and the Democratic Central Organization of Colombian Workers (CDTC).

This new labor organization, because of the number of affiliated unions and workers, has emerged as Colombia's most powerful union. It has direct influence over 60 percent of the labor movement.

Mario de J. Valderrama and Julio Roberto Gomez, presidents of the two unions—which will dissolve in two days, when the creation of the new central organization will be announced officially—attended the inauguration ceremony along with foreign delegations and about 2,500 Colombian union members.

In the next two days the CGTC and CDTC will hold their respective congresses to adopt the statutes of the new central organization and to conclude their fusion plans.

The following participated in the meeting: Emilio Maspero, president of the Latin American Central Organization of Workers; spokesmen for the world labor federation; and delegates of central labor organizations of Spain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela, Peru, Costa Rica, Cuba, and of other Latin American countries.

Peru

Fujimori Discusses Coup Events in Interview

PY0605223592 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 May 92 pp A1, A4-A6

["Exclusive" interview with President Alberto Fujimori by EL COMERCIO journalists Juan Paredes Castro, Hugo Guerra Arteaga, and Juan Zuniga Sanudo for the America Group of Dailies—EL COMERCIO, LA NACION of Buenos Aires, EL MERCURIO of Santiago, EL COMERCIO of Quito, and EL TIEMPO of Bogota—at the Grau Hall of Government Palace in Lima on 28 April]

[Text] [EL COMERCIO] When was the decision to change the power structure made, and why did you decide to implement it on 5 April, simultaneously or almost simultaneously with the release of the Armed Forces' proclamation?

[Fujimori] There are confidential, secret, and top secret factors. I believe it is not yet appropriate to reveal the details of the events of 5 April. I will reveal them in 1995, when I will no longer be bound to the Presidency. I can tell you, however, that the decision was made because I thought I was interpreting the people's will. I do not think my interpretation was wrong. If we wanted to be pragmatic in order to build democracy, we could not just ignore what was happening.

[EL COMERCIO] Why on 5 April?

[Fujimori] Because it had to be done on Sunday. There was no other reason.

[EL COMERCIO] Did you evaluate the international reaction beforehand? Did you consider another possible date? Did you expect the current international reaction?

[Fujimori] I obviously expected an international reaction, but I did not expect it to be as strong as it initially was. This happened because at the beginning it was erroneously stated that it was a military coup with some traditional characteristics like the curtailment of human rights, especially press freedom and other rights. But this was rapidly clarified and our international image has improved since then. Preventive measures were miscalculated. They were aimed at avoiding casualties. This

objective was accomplished to the detriment of the image of Peruvian democracy. Three weeks after the events, I can say that we adopted strong preventive measures to preserve order, but this was probably unnecessary because we also miscalculated the people's support. We estimated that only two-thirds of the population would support us, but 80 to 95 percent of the population are supporting us.

[EL COMERCIO] Were people polled on their opinions beforehand?

[Fujimori] We did not perform a statistically precise poll. But opinions were sounded out. In addition, I rely heavily on my own feeling [preceding word in English] to measure the degree of popular support for my measures.

[EL COMERCIO] Did you also do that with your ministerial team?

[Fujimori] I used a special team.

[EL COMERCIO] Since you assumed power in 1990 you unleashed a campaign against Congress and against the judicial branch. Were you preparing your proclamation? Was it something that you prepared from the very beginning or were there factors that prompted these measures?

[Fujimori] Actually, when I assumed the Presidency I did not even think that such a crucial moment would arrive. What I did was to crudely describe what I called the crisis of the legislative and judicial branches.

I did this several times, demanding support for the interest of Peru and changes in these two branches. What I said was not untrue. I did not discredit those branches. They have discredited themselves, and this has been admitted not only by the people but by members of those branches.

[EL COMERCIO] Was there any large-scale terrorist movement or any plan to destabilize your government from within?

[Fujimori] There was no such situation. We indeed assessed the risk of continuing with an entire system of legislative and judicial branches that evidently gave full freedom to terrorists. You can figure out what would happen within 20 months or in two more years. We still have 400 of them. At that pace, not a single terrorist would have been detained by 1995.

[EL COMERCIO] The America Group of Dailies' concern involves accurate knowledge on whether this is a personal, strictly civilian, or a civilian-military proclamation.

[Fujimori] It is strictly civilian and it was prompted by the president of the Republic. And I, being chiefly responsible for the nation's destiny, have assumed this difficult responsibility precisely because I am aware of all these factors that are detrimental to the country, and I have not stopped until reaching the base of the problem.

Perhaps such an assessment was made abroad and by a sector of our country's public opinion because the Armed Forces almost immediately voiced their opinion on the proclamation and later, when international public opinion seemed to pressure us, the Armed Forces again voiced their opinion. This has given the impression that they are playing a key role within the government.

In the beginning, I was criticized or, better said, a question was raised about the president of the Republic's effective command of the Armed Forces. And, even those media that are criticizing me now because of my extremely close relationship to the Armed Forces, pointed out the government's weakness and announced a coup d'etat. In this regard, I actually complied with a constitutional provision. And the Armed Forces also were playing their constitutional role. The president of the Republic is the supreme chief of the Armed Forces. The difference is that I have fully discharged that duty. The Armed Forces are identified—out of conviction—with that goal and they also have expressed their obedience. The Armed Forces and the police forces are aware, for example, of issues concerning national security vis-a-vis the threat of terrorism. This is the reason for their immediate and resolute support.

[EL COMERCIO] Did they, at any time, express their concern to you or convey to you a worrisome diagnosis of the country's domestic situation?

[Fujimori] Not only the Armed Forces. We have held frequent meetings right here at the Miguel Grau Hall of Government Palace on the situation of terrorism. We have periodically assessed these basic issues. Terrorism is Peru's No. 1 problem, not even the economic crisis is a greater threat. Terrorism is what makes the economic crisis worse.

[EL COMERCIO] Concerning the participation of the military in the government, there is a question that has to do with Captain Vladimiro Montesinos. Sources in Peru, the United States, and other countries have publicly questioned his presence as an adviser to your government because he is believed to be linked with drug trafficking. Don't you think it will be necessary to explain Mr. Montesinos' participation in the government?

[Fujimori] I repeat what I said to other journalists: Mr. Montesinos' role with the president is that of a lawyer, but he has absolutely nothing to do with what has been suggested through press speculation. I was surprised that even some people who held high-ranking public posts leveled charges 20 months later.

[EL COMERCIO] Like the one pressed by former Vice President San Roman?

[Fujimori] If he was aware of that situation he should have reported it at the proper time, because now we could charge him with concealment. If this gentleman [Montesinos] is linked with drug trafficking, he [San Roman] should have pressed the charges at the right time. He can still do it; he has the obligation to do it if he has the evidence. If he has no evidence, I suppose he will have to arrange things with Mr. Montesinos in court.

[EL COMERCIO] Is there no possibility of the Armed Forces becoming a government branch at some point, and that something similar to what Bordaberry did [military intervention in Uruguay in 1973] will happen in Peru?

[Fujimori] I want to reiterate that the Peruvian case is a very special case. On one hand, there are reasons of a hierarchical nature and, on the other, is their support for the government. They also have their own convictions. This pronouncement is not, as many maintain, a leadership pronouncement but rather a constitutional pronouncement. The guidelines established by this government and its presidency coincide with all the Armed Forces' and police forces' expectations. One thing I am certain about is that the people are always going to govern in Peru or in any other part of the world. You cannot deceive the people. The people will make the final determination. And if the people want a deep-rooted change there is no need for polls. The people want democracy and not a fake democracy. But neither do they want a military dictatorship. It is quite unlikely that the people will change their mind due to pressure exerted from abroad or at gunpoint.

[EL COMERCIO] Mr. President, are you planning to directly reform democracy?

[Fujimori] What I am planning to do is to democratize society within a political system because I reject a fake democracy. In this sense, we must clearly define what democracy means. Do you think our legislators, although they were formal representatives, truly represented our people? We can no longer tolerate people doing things in the name of democracy and manipulating the people.

[EL COMERCIO] Are we not talking about a supervised democracy?

[Fujimori] The restoration, the restitution of this democratization could not stem from a system that was so corrupt at certain levels. History has shown us what needs to be done. A decision of this nature seemingly represents a break from that constitutional continuity. A decision of this nature had to be taken in order to reach this objective. This same objective also was sought in the past but it did not get beyond political chicanery. What objectives do we seek? Our objectives are very clear: One of them is to fully reorganize the judicial branch.

We probably will not manage to perfect this branch 100 percent. But, as you can see in the media, there is even approval for the appointment and dismissal of several Supreme Court members. There are even requests for the dismissal of some who still remain in their posts. This means that everyone knows who is who in the Peruvian political field. The "only" problem is that nobody keeps evidence of his own bribes because those who bribe do things in a very intelligent way. As for Congress, I am sure the people are going to want one that is more effective and poses less obstacles for the executive branch. I am not only referring to my presidency. Therefore, it will entail terms that probably will be discussed later on, such as the political parties system, for example. There cannot be a democratic system such as the one a group of political leaders seeks to uphold. In the past this group of leaders controlled the political parties, denying access to young leaders. If you look at the results of polls three weeks later you will see that 91.5 percent are in favor of a plebiscite.

[EL COMERCIO] What do the people want?

[Fujimori] Democracy is what they really want. They no longer want to be deceived. If 91.5 percent want a plebiscite and 2.5 percent do not know or give no opinion, it means that only 4 or 5 percent are against it. Does this 4 or 5 percent represent the grass roots or militants of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], the PPC [Popular Christian Party], the AP [Popular Action]? Not at all, many more yearn for a democratization.

[EL COMERCIO] Does your plan entail a law on political parties? Would the Constitution be amended to the point that political parties would be eliminated?

[Fujimori] Quite the contrary. What we want is to strengthen the political parties and "eliminate" groups of political leaders to allow access to everyone. For a start, the political parties are not acting on the basis of a democratic methodology. Everyone is aware of this. The APRA and PPC militants have granted us their support; let us admit it.

[EL COMERCIO] You have always adopted a very critical attitude with respect to political parties since early 1990. Many criticisms and objections can obviously be made. Don't you think that you could have reached an agreement with the blocs represented in Congress? Did you need to resort to so drastic a rupture? Couldn't you find another appropriate solution?

[Fujimori] We have tried on many occasions. We have conducted intensive negotiations through the ministers and mainly through the Council of Ministers president. We succeeded on some occasions but we also failed. We have even reached agreements that were not complied with by the legislature. I can mention, as an example, the call for a special joint congressional session to reach an agreement on the budget law and other specific issues, but on which a completely different decision was finally made.

Furthermore, if one wants to make a deep reform that can affect congressmen themselves, they probably will not accept it. For example, a decision on the renewal of

one-third of Congress, non-reelection, or the number of congressmen are obviously quite remote possibilities.

[EL COMERCIO] People see you isolated in power and refusing a dialogue. It is said that you do not make the great decisions of your government with the cabinet or officials, that you have a very personal inner circle. What is this personal inner circle about which the press has made some comments?

[Fujimori] The administration of the government has been distorted by the press. What has happened is that there is no longer the privileged access of certain reporters to Government House. I believe that the powers of the executive branch should not be taken advantage of by others. In other words, there are no privileged businessmen or reporters here to get breaking news or take advantage of privileges. An effort has been made to treat everyone the same. The belief that many important decisions are made outside the cabinet is also not true. The important decisions have been implemented through supreme decrees or legislative decrees. There were 123 legislative decrees debated in the cabinet. Regarding a personal inner circle, this is a right anyone has, especially the president of the Republic, and he does not have to report their identities unless he is a criminal. The truth is the president of the Republic is responsible for the decisions he makes, with or without the advice of his aides. The responsible individuals are not the advisers. I can have 20 or 30 advisers and this is the right the president has. He does not have to give details on how this circle functions. The cabinet is the one that functions. When I need information or advice I call on the people who know more about the issue. I believe this is an important responsibility of the president. If differences exist, it is with the styles of previous governments. Here there are no pressures created by interests of political parties or economic groups.

[EL COMERCIO] Since 5 April, new work has been created, especially for the legislative function that has been taken over by the cabinet. How has the cabinet been organized in relation to this new task? Is its work still defined within the Constitution?

[Fujimori] The difference is the legislative work in the absence of Congress. This is why we had to enlarge the work team. There is now a larger number of advisers around each minister. There is also a team of advisers of various sectors who work in an integrated way. This is the difference with the previous team.

[EL COMERCIO] Have the lines of command and coordination of the cabinet chief remained unchanged?

[Fujimori] Yes, they have.

[EL COMERCIO] Somebody will have to replace you when you leave the country. How will this problem be resolved?

[Fujimori] I have not yet analyzed this matter. I am not planning to travel in the near future. (laughs)

[EL COMERCIO] Will you hold direct talks, especially with the cabinet chief, considering the fact that the vice presidents have resigned, especially San Roman?

[Fujimori] This has always been an executive branch duty, but we also resorted to several congressmen who acted as a link between the executive and legislative branches.

[EL COMERCIO] But the ruling Change 90 movement has never been a link between the executive and legislative branches. This could have been one of the reasons why relations have frozen.

[Fujimori] It was obviously a team of beginners, "inexperienced" people, a fact that caused a split. But a dialogue with several spokesmen was established as the months passed. The first positive signal was that both chambers were chaired by Change 90 representatives.

[EL COMERCIO] As for the schedule, on 5 April you announced a call for a plebiscite. It was understood that this was intended to legitimize your government, but the possibility of holding it to meet this objective was not further mentioned, only the constitutional amendments and the reforms.

[Fujimori] Of course, this is just a matter of details. But we want to be very specific on these subjects. The main matter is whether the people agree with Congress' dissolution and the total reorganization of the judicial branch and other institutions. Other plebiscites also can be called. But the main point is whether people agree on these matters.

[EL COMERCIO] This means that your schedule has not completely finished considering that new elements may be included in each of your plebiscites?

[Fujimori] Dates have been established for the schedule. We would like to strictly comply with the dates and the objectives. We have to be as objective as possible in all these matters. We have not yet discussed in detail the full issues that will be included in the several plebiscites.

[EL COMERCIO] Is it possible for the schedule to end before April, maybe in February?

[Fujimori] This is impossible from the viewpoint of time. We need to prepare the voters list, to regularize 2 million voter registration cards because of changes of residence, new citizens, and logistic organizations. If anybody suggests that this is possible then I would like to have his support. The schedule is really adjusted to the minimum, even the date of 5 April has only the minimum number of days.

[EL COMERCIO] People abroad think that the schedule could be reduced.

[Fujimori] This would prevent full participation considering that 2 million voter registration cards should be regularized by 5 April. This will demand eight hours daily for a period of 45 days. We will have to double the

number of hours for the computer work to comply with the time. Then we will have to print the voter registration cards and distribute them, as well as organize the balloting tables. We cannot really organize this in a shorter period of time.

[EL COMERCIO] One also must consider the case of the National Election Board [JNE], whose internal organization is going through a critical situation.

[Fujimori] Of course. As for the congressional elections, we have considered that the minimum period for the campaigns should not be reduced because candidates and political parties will make their demands. I think that the minimum period possible has been considered.

[EL COMERCIO] Have you at any time tried to talk to the JNE chairman or have you conveyed to him your concern about the JNE internal crisis? Has any JNE member been dismissed?

[Fujimori] The president of the Council of Ministers is charged with coordinating actions with the JNE. He has attended several meetings and we are trying to ensure that the JNE act as independently as possible.

[EL COMERCIO] You said that the agenda for the talks could be expanded or restricted. Do you think some of the recommendations made by the OAS could be included? Could the style of the constitutional reforms be changed to call for a constituent assembly?

[Fujimori] I am willing to hear, consider, and evaluate any suggestion, which will be welcomed if it entails respect for the people's will. We are not deaf but any action leading to, let us say, a situation in which the people will be unable to participate directly will be ruled out. As for the constituent assembly, we do not have good references because everyone knows how interests are manipulated in a constituent assembly. What the people want is full participation. They do not trust constituent assemblies.

[EL COMERCIO] Then who would propose the amendments? How can those proposals have credibility?

[Fujimori] Proposals will be heard from all areas, even from a dialogue that might emerge. Proposals obviously should reflect the will of the majority.

[EL COMERCIO] Just like you think that interests can be manipulated in a constituent assembly in connection with some articles of the Constitution, people also can think that the executive branch can manipulate some proposals....

[Fujimori] The people can reject them. That is the object of consulting with the people.

[EL COMERCIO] What will your proposal for a national dialogue be like? Who is going to be the participants in the national dialogue since there is still no law of political parties—and even if there was—taking into account that the party followers are represented by the party leadership?

[Fujimori] I hope changes also will take place within the political parties. In any case, we will respect the decision of each party. I believe we have no objection to that but we are concerned about their representatives.

I would like to make an interruption here before I conclude with the national consultation issue. I believe that efforts are being made to make, in an unconscious manner, an evil out of the concept of the national consultation as an appropriate measure of dictatorships. I believe that is not true because the most advanced democracies have popular consultations. For example, several states in the United States have them. Why are we going to deny this right to the Peruvian people, especially in such a critical situation as the one affecting their lives now? I believe that beyond the meaning of the importance of some press, it is necessary that the idea of an authentic democratization should be consolidated. Fortunately, the people can no longer be deceived. Let us allow a 10 percent error in the polls. Just imagine that 91.5 percent support for the popular consultation, and they were not even asked in that sense but in the sense of a plebiscite. I believe that in this regard we have to be democratic. We have to respect what the people want and not what a political leadership wants, leaders who say that this or that should be done. Otherwise we would again be opening and widening the breach between the real Peru and the Peru of the party bosses. This is what should be avoided.

[EL COMERCIO] How many terms will the new congress have?

[Fujimori] From 1993 to 28 July 1995.

[EL COMERCIO] This is the equivalent of the term provided for in the previous constitution. Would this be a temporary term for a new congress?

[Fujimori] Yes, to reopen it as soon as possible. Normally, Congress opened its regular session in April. We set it for 5 April to say that it is after one year of suspension ...

[EL COMERCIO] Has the 5th of April marked sort of the beginning of a new republic?

[Fujimori] No. I do not want to talk about a new republic, and less still about a new democracy. It is, however, an indication that one year later they will be operating simultaneously. That is why I have strongly emphasized the amendment, rather than the reform, of the Constitution. A reform would take too long. The current Constitution has unquestionable and respectful articles, which should remain unchanged. The part dealing with the structure of the state should be modified.

[EL COMERCIO] You have been asked about the need for a referendum to support what has been done since 5 April. This could be necessary, because otherwise how will the

government call jurists and the people who will draw up the proposals, or who will reflect the people's aspirations if it does not have a foundation of legitimacy?

[Fujimori] I would like to answer with the following words, and I hope you will understand me. Even if we do not consult with the people on the events of 5 April, we are morally empowered to summon a large number of jurists, and not only jurisprudence specialists, but also specialists in all areas. In fact, even though the current situation can be referred to as illegitimate, no one will question the legitimacy of the referendum called for 5 July. This referendum will hear the voice of those who have been either supporting or opposing the measures that were enforced on 5 April. I am willing to put all that in the referendum. Actually, this is a form of democracy.

[EL COMERCIO] Would you invite some jurists who were already in the opposition or who recently joined it to take part in the constitutional work?

[Fujimori] These constitutional amendments are conceived within a framework. For instance, it should be assumed that we are not going to return to the way things were on 4 April. Thus, there are at least some basic conditions. I am not going to let the 5 April decision be used to restore the situation existing earlier under the pretext of keeping a democratic image. So, I will simply not consider to be representative any opposition jurist who comes to me to talk about 4 April.

[EL COMERCIO] In theory at least, there are two governments now: a real government supported by the public and an informal government represented by Mr. San Roman. Do you have any formula for ending this, or will the opposition—which is the stronghold of the previous Congress—simply disappear by itself?

[Fujimori] Look, the majority will decide. If there is almost unanimity, let us respect it, and one does not have to be divine to know the preferences of the large majority. This is a legitimate government because the people want it. As for the other government, the people already have found the appropriate words to refer to it.

[EL COMERCIO] The international community will continue to pressure you to engage in a dialogue with political parties that are represented by their leaders.

[Fujimori] We are not against dialogue. The dialogue is under way. Yet each interlocutor has, so to speak, a percentage of representation. I am sure that everyone believes that those leaders represent a very small area.

[EL COMERCIO] Does the dialogue that you have sponsored seek to reach an agreement on the plans that you want to implement?

[Fujimori] I drew up my last message with much precision. For example, I mentioned a dialogue that will seek some points of agreement on the modification of Congress and on the total reorganization of the judicial branch. At least now I am learning, through the opinions voiced through the media, that there are some points of agreement. Other spokesmen now are supporting the reorganization of Congress. I believe public opinion is prevailing. I again reiterate that the people's opinion will prevail in each case, in each subject, even if political circles unleash an intense campaign against this objective.

[EL COMERCIO] One must try to see other expectations in this popular support. Is it possible for the people to expect economic improvements or certain populist donations from the government?

[Fujimori] The support given to the government has nothing to do with the adoption of easy, populist, and generous measures. On the contrary, the support given to this government has remained at a very high level. Before 5 April, the president was given more than 70 percent support, with a low average for opponents. This was precisely because of the serious measures that have been adopted and because Peruvians are no longer thinking merely in the short term. They are thinking in the medium term. They expect that at least their children will have a better future and that they will not endure the hardships they are currently facing. Consequently, these people's way of thinking is very important, and this is one of the main basis for building the country. People reject populist measures because they are well aware that a country is not built with such measures.

[EL COMERCIO] Will you maintain the economic program with the appropriate adjustments or should one expect a "round turn" as sailors say?

[Fujimori] The presence of Minister Carlos Bolona and the appointment of new Industry Minister Jorge Camet is good evidence that the program will continue.

[EL COMERCIO] Should we then expect that your promise of not using the "money-printing machine" (printing money without proper backing) will last forever?

[Fujimori] I always have maintained this, and with all the more reason now because when one speculated about Bolona's resignation, even the ultraright parties demanded his presence. Everyone is satisfied now. There is a general consensus. One hundred percent of the people advocate his economic program. Do you remember when I was criticized for my decision for the country to rejoin the international financing system? After the 5 April event, they demanded that the country rejoin this system. We will continue to comply with the same objectives. But we do not want them now to come with demands because people will describe them as inconsistent.

[EL COMERCIO] This means that the replacement of Jorge Chavez by Suarez (in the Central Reserve Bank, BCR) implies a reaffirmation of this guideline. Doesn't it entail a change of procedure?

[Fujimori] This implies rather a major coherence of the economic program. You are aware that there have been some disagreements on this issue. What we want is to

technically handle the economic program, and it cannot be separated from the monetary one. The economic program will be handled in a more open manner. You must forget the possibility of printing money without proper backing.

[EL COMERCIO] The handling of the foreign currency exchange is another issue of concern within the monetary program. How do you plan to solve this?

[Fujimori] We will resort to all macroeconomic elements of the economy and to revenue and tax legislation to allow greater income, as well as to correct distortions. Under the pretext of a misinterpreted autonomy, the BCR could not follow its own strategy.

[EL COMERCIO] The behavior of banks has generated a certain nervousness in the past few days. For example, one of the great concerns was whether a traumatic devaluation would occur.

[Fujimori] They are mere speculations. I will no longer talk about this.

[EL COMERCIO] According to [IMF Managing Director Michel] Camdessus' viewpoint, a healthy fiscal situation is the basis for solving the matter of foreign currency exchange in the clear forms established in the program. Do you continue to support this thesis?

[Fujimori] Of course. I am going to explain to you a measure that will greatly improve tax collection. Those who evade tax payments will be imprisoned. We hope to send some "big shots" to prison so that the message will be clearly understood. We will no longer tolerate this. In doing this we will be able to collect more resources through tax payments and not through the tax imposed on gasoline. We want contributors who have evaded tax payments in the formal and informal sector to comply with this objective. I am fully convinced that taxpayers will be sure and satisfied that their contributions are being well used.

[EL COMERCIO] Does the adoption of strong measures through internal tax collection have something to do with the fear that the expected external collection will fail, especially that of the Support Group, and financial incomes that have been involved may be frozen for a period of time?

[Fujimori] The commitment of the cooperating organizations and friendly countries will continue in the next few months. For example, the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] will finance the construction and repair of highways. The issues to be negotiated are the credits and new loans.

We hope that because the handling of the situation has become more open the international economic community's understanding will permit a normalization. The cables indicate that the Support Group is still safe. This is what the cables said.

[EL COMERCIO] Have you held any contacts, some talks with the credit organizations?

[Fujimori] Yes, with some of them through various channels but not yet with all of them.

[EL COMERCIO] Are you given assurances that the Support Group will not be frozen and that it may perhaps speed up its actions?

[Fujimori] We hope that the Support Group will act within the framework approved with the IMF. I believe that 21 days after 5 April there has been a total change of attitude regarding an understanding of this great civic movement. Just look at the various business organizations expressing support for the government. This is a good signal. The international community is listening to this type of message.

[EL COMERCIO] What is your opinion about the comments that the reforms of a market economy can only be made within the framework of an authoritarian regime?

[Fujimori] The concept of democracy is really undervalued here in Peru by the conduct of the system itself. The reforms we are making have the support of the people. To me this is democracy. The reforms are being made with the support of the people in all aspects. Look, next week we will create the Superintendency of the Administration of Public Funds, that is, a parallel system to the pension system. This is a profound reform for Latin America. Ask the people; they support it fully. Look at the benefits created by the liberalization of public utilities, which at first created so much criticism and even uncertainty among the population. The population is the one defending it now. Therefore, we are carrying out these reforms, these profound reforms in real democracy. I say in democracy because the great majority of the people support them, in contrast to the party leaderships that, in alliances, opposed them. Yes, in an authentic democracy where reform can be carried out perfectly well.

[EL COMERCIO] Do you believe that the visit to Lima of Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja is possible when it is believed internationally that your government is operating outside the Constitution?

[Fujimori] From our side, Peru and the Peruvian people will welcome him with open arms. He will get the same affection the Peruvian president received in Quito. We will thank him for his visit.

[EL COMERCIO] The bordering countries have been more cautious regarding the Peruvian situation. For example, the Chilean Foreign Ministry, after a very hard initial stand, all of a sudden softened its position. Were there any negotiations with those countries and with Chile specifically?

[Fujimori] Obviously, contacts were made at the foreign ministries' level with all countries, without referring to the case of our good Chilean friends specifically. In general, there has been a change of attitude because with

the passing days the situation affecting Peru has been correctly interpreted. I believe that no government can oppose the changes programmed by an entire people. For example, it is like assuming that military forces or an entire system can oppose the decision of all levels of the population.

[EL COMERCIO] When the institutional regime was broken in Haiti, Argentina headed a position in the OAS and the Rio Group that could be defined as hard. Now, how do you judge the fact that in the face of the Peruvian situation Argentina showed itself to be more cautious or at least less intransigent waiting for the outcome of an accepted schedule?

[Fujimori] But there is a great difference between what is happening in Haiti and Cuba and what is happening in Peru. Everybody now understands that this is not a traditional coup.

[EL COMERCIO] But Argentina withdrew its ambassador.

[Fujimori] Yes, but it was for a very specific reason. I continue to believe that we have excellent relations with Argentina.

[EL COMERCIO] What is the future of the Andean Pact? In Peru this is interpreted as if there was no longer a desire to integrate ourselves with countries of the subregion, and there are those who believe that we are again yielding to pressures by some businessmen to protect ineffectiveness and thus return to the protectionist system.

[Fujimori] In the government we do not feel pressures from any particular group. That I can assure you 100 percent. I repeat, we act independently from that type of pressure, but we listen. For this reason we want to be democratic in the eyes of the various groups within the population. What we do worry about is the country's agrarian development. We must, in fact, look for a balanced system that will prevent agriculture from stagnating.

We would have liked to work in coordination with our partners in the Andean Pact, within which Peru has been, as you know, one of its main promoters. We want an open and competitive economy, free of all subsidies.

There have been retrogressions. Subsidies remain extremely high, such as those on energy, fuels, etc. Perhaps, then, Peru cannot be held very much responsible for these discrepancies. We have to negotiate as a group, and I hope the five countries' integration ministers will study this problem more thoroughly.

[EL COMERCIO] What is your view of the development and seriousness of narcoterrorism before and after 5 April? What are the chances or the plans of your government to face it until 5 February 1993 and afterward, when the new congress is elected?

[Fujimori] Comparing the situation earlier and now there is not much difference. In three weeks we probably will not change this 12-year-old situation, but there is a component that will imply differences in the development of terrorism—since 5 April no terrorist has been set free.

On the contrary, important arrests have been made. And we are going to continue with that work. Moreover, relations between the people and the Armed Forces are being intensified. The measures adopted on 5 April also had a very positive psychological impact.

The overwhelming majority of the population supports the government, which feels strengthened by the position of respect and support of its Armed Forces. And there is also a greater identification, and this permits coordination that is essential between the people and their Armed Forces and the police so that the struggle will not only be military but legal.

[EL COMERCIO] You have said that by the end of your term in office in 1995 there will be no more terrorism. Now that the government has taken a new direction, do you reaffirm your position, and what is the basis for that position?

[Fujimori] I announced that deadline some two or three months ago. Now, with all these instruments, I definitely reaffirm my position that we are going to pacify the country. My position is based on the implementation of all the strategy included in the legislative decrees and on coordinated work, I repeat, between the people and the armed and police forces, on strengthening the intelligence service, and on a penal system comparable to those of other countries that have suffered terrorism. I am going to announce the content very soon. That is, the terrorists will not be set free after a sentence of only two, four, or five years, and the famous legislative decree by which sentences are pardoned will no longer be used.

[EL COMERCIO] What maximum sentences do you intend to implement?

[Fujimori] They are sentences comparable, I repeat, to those implemented by democratic countries that have had this problem.

[EL COMERCIO] Will there be an amendment perhaps to establish capital punishment?

[Fujimori] I am not thinking so much of capital punishment. But then, I am going to ask that question of sources of any domestic or international position. Why won't Peru be able to implement, within the framework of respect for human rights, the laws implemented by other more developed countries in Europe and the United States in their struggle against terrorism?

[EL COMERCIO] Concerning drug trafficking, it is well known that the antidrug agreement signed with the United States, particularly, has experienced a number of setbacks. After the recent episodes, such as the attack on the OAS [as published] plane, what do you think will be the future of the antidrug problem?

[Fujimori] Excuse me, I want to make a correction. It was not an attack but forcing an unidentified plane, without flags, to land. I ask you, please, to take pictures of that plane to see for yourselves that it has no flag. It was flying on an unauthorized route. I am sure the U.S. Defense Department and State Department are aware of these details.

[EL COMERCIO] Concerning mishaps, president, we experienced mishaps at the newspaper offices and other media offices during your proclamation's initial period.

[Fujimori] I confess that it was one of my great dilemmas. What to do with the media? Even on the previous days, even that night. Nevertheless, I had an almost indispensable goal: There was not to be any disorder and, therefore, a possibility of causing casualties. Therefore, great precautions were required to meet this goal. Of course, I did not believe that such serious media would instigate disorders, but I could not make any discriminations either. The idea was simply to have a sort of deterrent presence without interfering with the opinion of some media. The idea was rather to make an effort to have all the media supply the most effective information possible and, once normalcy was totally restored, to lift the measures.

[EL COMERCIO] Amid cold calculations, was it painful for you to take the censorship measures?

[Fujimori] I even decided to suspend the beginning of the academic year, precisely to avoid victims. This has been "a bloodless revolution." In fact, I very much regret that you were scared those two days. I hope that press freedom had, in a certain way, been diminished. You know my conduct in this regard, and if I talk about the executive branch's, the president's interests, the respect for press freedom greatly favors me.

[EL COMERCIO] In other words, you again guarantee your respect for press freedom?

[Fujimori] Totally.

[EL COMERCIO] Not only now, but in the future, even if the government had to harden [its position] vis-a-vis certain circumstances?

[Fujimori] There will be no more 5 April's.

[EL COMERCIO] Would you like to make any other general comments for EL COMERCIO of Lima and for the other newspapers of the America Group of Dailies?

[Fujimori] I hope that this interview will be particularly instrumental in clarifying many mistaken notions stemming from misinformation or incomplete information. I want to reiterate that my government seeks to democratize our system and that we are going to carry out this experience hand in hand with the people. Nothing will be done without the people. Thank you.

Opposition Meets With OAS; Require Assembly

PA0605150392 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 May 92

[Report by Enrique Vidal]

[Text] Representatives of the political parties have certified to the special OAS commission headed by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell that the only solution to the country's crisis would be to call a constituent assembly and receive the resignations of all officials elected in the 1990 general elections.

At the end of the three-hour meeting at the Sheraton Hotel, Mercedes Cabanillas, under secretary of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance, spoke to the media.

[Begin Cabanillas recording] Mr. Fujimori and the members of the legislative branch should resign, demonstrating an unselfish and responsible position that would lead to the adoption of a transitional government. This government, once the necessary institutional and constitutional reforms are adopted, may then hold general elections to appoint the democratic authorities the country requires. The OAS has a diplomatic mission to accomplish. This mission has objectives but also limitations because the country's laws and sovereignty are respected. This mission has come to observe the negative propagandistic manipulations of Mr. Fujimori's government, because dictatorial governments such as his do not guarantee or express the people's democratic opinion. They do the complete opposite. The dictatorship, the tyranny, uses tricks and posturing to sneak into power and gain acceptance, after having disrupted and torn the law, and to elude the responsibilities established in the Constitution. [end recording]

Congressmen Comment on Mission

PA0605150592 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 5 May, the visiting OAS delegation received Felipe Osterling and Roberto Ramirez del Villar, former presidents of the Congress, for a briefing on the country's situation 30 days after the national emergency and reconstruction government was installed. The meeting was held at the Sheraton Hotel, where the delegation is staying, and lasted approximately one hour. On the street in front of the centrally located hotel, a number of American Revolutionary Popular Alliance members tried to riot, however, police prevented the dispersed the protesters with tear gas.

Leaving the hotel, Osterling said the congressmen are willing to resign on 28 July 1992, provided President Alberto Fujimori steps down as well. A constituent assembly would govern the country temporarily and the presidency would not be left vacant, he said. Osterling mentioned the possibility of Javier Perez de Cuellar's mediating in efforts to solve the country's problems.

[Begin Osterling recording] I think the OAS has exhausted its mediating capacity. As far as I know, no other OAS delegation will visit Lima. Peru's situation will be discussed in the Bahamas on 17 May during a foreign ministers' meeting. I am afraid that, in view of Fujimori's inflexible stand, it will be impossible to restore democracy and rule by the Constitution, which every Peruvian desires. [end recording]

Opposition Issues Communique

PA0705034792 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] The political parties and independent groups reported their stance today regarding the alleged failure of the OAS mission in Peru. This followed a two-hour meeting in the home of Maximo San Roman. The parties noted that, since there is no dialogue to return to constitutional order, Peru may suffer from increasing international isolation.

The representatives of the different political organizations and forces of the country met at the home of Maximo San Roman, who was proclaimed constitutional president by the dissolved Congress, to draft a communique on the results of the efforts by the ad hoc mission of the OAS foreign ministers. The mission was seeking to initiate a dialogue to restore constitutional order in Peru. After a meeting that lasted over two hours, the representatives of the political, legislative groups issued a five-point communique, which was approved unanimously.

The communique reads: The undersigned organizations and political forces declare the following:

1. It is public knowledge that the OAS mission has failed in its efforts to open the dialogue process and to find political formulas to reestablish the constitutional system in Peru that was violated on 5 April and to eliminate the dictatorship.

2. This failure is due exclusively to the intransigence and arrogance of Engineer Fujimori, who refused to have a direct dialogue with the parties and who did not even consider proposals presented by the mission. One proposal was to give a place in the democratic recovery process to Dr. Javier Perez de Cuellar. Another was to set aside the unacceptable plebiscite and form an elective organization stemming from direct, universal, and secret elections. This was proposed in view of the attempt to use a plebiscite to legitimize the coup d'etat.

3. In contrast, the political organizations and forces reiterated their flexible position, placing foremost the country's interests. They proposed convoking a constituent assembly that would dissolve the Congress, forming a transitional government, and holding general elections for president and the legislature immediately thereafter. This was understood by the OAS mission headed by [Uruguayan] Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, whose work we recognize and appreciate, to be an expression of flexibility.

4. The consequence of this situation—for which the only one responsible is Alberto Fujimori—threatens to be that of increasing international isolation, accompanied by sanctions that, unfortunately, would harm the Peruvian people. The people are totally alien to the decisions of the dictatorship.

5. In view of the above, we denounce and condemn the actions of Alberto Fujimori, and we reiterate our decision to combat the de facto regime.

San Roman Meets German Envoy; Announces Rally

PA0605140992 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Maximo San Roman, proclaimed constitutional president by the dissolved Congress, announced on 5 May that the rally he will lead will be held on 15 May. He made the statement after visiting German Ambassador Franz Freiherr von Mentzingen, who he briefed on the current situation in Peru.

In the afternoon, San Roman visited and spoke to the ambassadors of Portugal and Italy.

San Roman's visit to German Ambassador Franz Freiherr von Mentzingen lasted a little over one hour, after which San Roman said the purpose of his visit was to brief the German Government on the current situation in Peru.

[Begin recording] [San Roman] I have come to visit the ambassador of the sister country of Germany to give him a personal briefing on the latest developments in the country. The ambassador listened to me very attentively and I am now leaving.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[San Roman] No, it was only a broad dialogue and conversation with the ambassador.

[Reporter] Do you have the support of the German Government?

[San Roman] There is support on the part of all the countries that love democracy and who want a return to constitutionality. We have agreed that the general rally will be on 15 May. I hope that on this occasion, as the Armed Forces have said, they will live up to their guarantees.

[Von Mentzingen] My country is concerned about these developments. We are very interested in the reestablishment of democracy. After the developments on 5 April, my government issued a statement on suspending aid to Peru, drawing a distinction between the aid to fight poverty and aid for health, to fight cholera. We will continue to give such aid. [end recording]

Police Conduct Raid on Castro Castro Jail

PA0605164992 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 May 92

[Report by Cesar Lengua]

[Text] At 0325, approximately 500 policemen left one of the National Police's central garrisons and headed for the Miguel Castro Castro Jail in San Juan de Lurigancho, to conduct a search of inmates held for terrorism. The operation had been postponed following failed attempts to enter the sections of the jail where terrorist inmates are held. The inmates had been entrenched in these sections for over a month. The large police contingent conducted a surprise raid, and were accompanied by a group of prosecutors and National Institute of Prisons officials. The operation was carried out in total secrecy; no lights were allowed. They drove in darkness because the rebels reportedly kept close surveillance atop the jail buildings. After taking up strategic positions inside, the jail's emergency lights were turned on. A loud explosion alerted the inmates of the policemen's arrival. The police hurled tear gas and used flares to easily locate each other.

A few minutes later, inmates were heard protesting, primarily from Sections 4A and 4B. Shooting continued throughout the operation, as it was believed the rebels might have heavy caliber weapons. The objective of the operation is to transfer women held for terrorism to other jails in the interior of the country.

Ministry Issues Communique

PA0705022892 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0114 GMT 7 May 92

[Communique issued by the Social Communications Office of the Government Ministry in Lima on 6 May]

[Text] 1. At 0400 on 6 May 1992, unarmed policemen, who were accompanied by Public Ministry representatives to guarantee the legality of their actions and respect for human rights, entered Section 1A of the Miguel Castro Castro prison to relieve overcrowding therein and normalize the situation of the female inmates held on charges of terrorism by transferring them to the Santa Monica prison.

2. During the operations this afternoon, the policemen were attacked with explosives, automatic weapons, and corrosive chemicals. They were attacked by the inmates of Section 1A and the male inmates in Section 4B, who also are accused of terrorism. As a result of the attack, 12 policemen were injured, four of them seriously. They were taken to the National Police hospital to receive immediate medical care.

3. To conclude the task assigned and restore authority, instructions have been given for the intervention to continue, using every dissuasive measure possible in accordance with the regulations of force in this matter.

[Signed] Social Communications Office of the Government Ministry.

[issued] Lima, 6 May 1992.

Clash With Prisoners Reported

PA0705032992 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 May 92

[Excerpts] Since very early in the morning of 6 May, joint forces from the police and Army have been involved in violent clashes with prisoners charged with terrorism at the Miguel Castro Castro Penitentiary in Canto Grande. One policeman has been killed and seven have been injured in the clashes that began when the police tried to move some prisoners to the Chorrillos Womens Penitentiary. It has been reported that the two sections occupied by the rebels have become a sort of school for terrorism. A tense situation prevails at the time of this newscast. [passage omitted]

Early in the morning of 6 May there was general upheaval. The police, with the support of helicopters, suspended all visits and prevented the relatives of the inmates from getting close to the prison. Interior Minister Juan Briones arrived at the site at about noon and remained there for three hours. He left without making any statements to reporters. [passage omitted]

It has been over 15 hours since the police entered the penitentiary and so far it is not known how many inmates are wounded or dead inside the prison. Nonetheless, the police have redoubled security outside the prison, while the troops inside the building are being relieved by soldiers who will stay overnight at the penitentiary.

Venezuela

Officials Condition Restoration of Ties to Peru

PA0705020292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2228 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Caracas, 6 May (NOTIMEX)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on 6 May conditioned the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Peru to the end of the "leniency" [lenidad] stemming from the self-inflicted coup staged by his Peruvian colleague Alberto Fujimori.

Venezuela suspended diplomatic relations with the Peruvian Government on 15 April, withdrew its ambassador, and maintained a consular presence in Peru, after terming Fujimori's decision to dissolve the legislative and judicial branches, with the support of the Armed Forces, "intolerable and unjustifiable."

The statements came hours after it was learned that the efforts of an OAS mission to seek an understanding between Fujimori and those groups opposed to the 5 April self-inflicted coup had failed. After the OAS mission failed in Peru, the possibility of a rapprochement

between Caracas and Lima became more remote. This would have an effect on the economic integration of the Andean Pact, which includes Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador.

Perez, who spoke during a municipal ceremony in Caracas, said his government's decision—the most drastic decision against Peru at the international level thus far—"was adopted to state Venezuela's position and its discontent with the leniency of Peru."

"Latin Americans have seen the perverse, antidemocratic, and dictatorial action that prevails in Peru," the Venezuelan president, who thwarted a coup attempt in his country last 4 February, declared.

In brief statements, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Humberto Calderon said Venezuela will resume relations with Lima once "there is an understanding shared by all and satisfactory to both parties."

Calderon, a Christian Democratic opposition leader, who took office on 10 March within the framework of a "cabinet of national unity," said that a prior condition to reestablish relations would be the observance of a program for a democratic return in Peru.

Only one week ago the head of the Venezuelan diplomatic mission stated the opinion that Perez acted hastily in suspending relations with Peru, although he reiterated Caracas' condemnation of the self- inflicted coup.

Interior Ministry Issues Communique on Strike

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[Text] Concerning the strike that has been convoked for 7 May, the national executive branch—through the Interior Affairs Ministry—has issued a communique.

The communique points out that the National Confederation of Associations of Agricultural Producers, the National Federation of Agricultural-Livestock Producers, and the National Federation of Cattle Ranchers have announced they plan to stage a so-called civic stoppage on 7 May. The stoppage, according to the 3 May 1992 communique, will hinder traffic along the main highways of the country.

Therefore, the national executive branch feels it should state that, according to Article 64 of the national Constitution, all Venezuelans have the right to move about freely in the national territory and the government has the obligation to protect this movement.

The persons signing the abovementioned communique issued another communique that seems to ratify the initial purpose of hindering traffic on the national highways, something the national government will obviously not allow.

The right to strike is guaranteed by the Constitution. The law on political parties, public rallies, and demonstrations is respected and guaranteed by the government but without giving up its duty to dissolve any crowds that might hinder free transit as provided by Article 46 of that law.

The government feels that it is reproachable and therefore harmful to the national economy and the consumers to paralyze the supply of food products for an entire day, as is the purpose of the promoters of the so-called civic stoppage. Nevertheless, no measures will be taken against this initiative as long as the announced actions will not lead to violence, but the authors of this folly will be held responsible for the damage they may inflict on the community.

Finally, the national government reports to the citizenry that it is willing to cooperate in solving the problems of the farm producers, as the president of the Republic promised during a meeting with their representatives held at the Miraflores Presidential Palace on Sunday 3 May. The representatives themselves admit this in their latest communique issued on 6 May 1992.

Minister Seeks Dialogue

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[Text] Agriculture and Livestock Minister Jonathan Coles has said that only a minority will support the stoppage announced by the agricultural producers and cattle ranchers. The minister said that on 3 May, the president of the Republic met at the Miraflores Presidential Palace with representatives of the National Federation of Agricultural-Livestock Producers and the National Federation of Cattle Ranchers. Minister Coles pointed out that measures had been agreed upon that satisfy the demands of the groups and therefore there is no need to stage a stoppage.

[Begin Coles recording] It was announced at the meeting that the CASA [expansion unknown] enterprise would purchase the rice surplus from Guarico and that a high-level commission would revise the agricultural feasibility studies. It was also announced that the producers would participate in the administration of storage centers and the Agricultural Credit Fund.

The most important thing is that the president instructed the economy minister and others, including myself, to hold meetings with the producers to revise objectively the reform process and analyze its positive and negative aspects. If any measures are to be rectified, we will rectify them. The important issue is that we have the best intentions to hold a dialogue, and we do not believe that staging stoppages is the best solution when the country needs everyone to work. [end recording]

New Information Minister Takes Office, Comments

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[Text] Angel Enrique Zambrano, after being sworn in by President Carlos Andres Perez as minister of the Central Information Office, OCI, spoke to the press about his plans in his new post. He stressed he will assist the release of goverment information so the country can be well informed, especially concerning President Perez' plans for reforms.

[Begin recording in progress] [Zambrano] ...the OCI as an institution and the good things that Pedro Mogna, my predecessor, set in motion will be duly examined in order to form a true information ministry for the entire country.

[Unidentified reporter] Will there be reforms to the international press corps system?

[Zambrano] That will have to be studied because the contract is about to expire; a decision will have to be made by the government.

[Reporter] Will reports be issued after the Council of Ministers holds its meetings?

[Zambrano] I think this is necessary so the that country can be informed about the Council of Ministers' decisions. [end recording]